Daily Report

Latin America

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Haitian President Addresses International Meeting

PY1411141891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0107 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cochabamba, 12 Nov (EFE)—Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide stated today, 12 November, that drug traffickers may be behind the military officers who ousted him on 29 September.

"I personally saw many drug traffickers, who had been under arrest, set free on the day of the coup," Aristide told EFE. Aristide participated here in a two-day meeting of the International Socialist Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Aristide added that the "fundamental" reason for his overthrow was "his struggle against drugs and corruption." He promised that if he returns to power, he will not suspend this struggle.

"I will proceed with the struggle against corruption and against drug traffickers," the ousted president categorically said.

Regarding accusations that human rights were violated during his government, Aristide said that those "are accusations by the coupists" who seek to delay the international negotiations on his return to power.

"How can they ask for respect for human rights if during the time they have been in power more than 1,000 people have been killed and there are tanks and armed people still on the streets? This cannot be called respect for human rights," he said.

Regarding the blockade imposed on Haiti to force a return to legal constitutional order, Aristide claims that it is only affecting the upper classes and not the common people who continue to live under "the same conditions."

At the end of the two-day meeting, the International Socialist Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean today approved a resolution in which it condemns the "illegal act" represented by the coup and demands the return to power of Aristide.

Moreover, the International Socialist committee—which before the end of the month will meet in Santiago, Chile, for its world conference—has called upon the democratic governments and international organizations to prepare a program of economic and social assistance to be implemented in Haiti when the country returns to constitutional order.

Cuba

Alarcon on Antiblockade Solidarity Inside U.S.

FL1511031491 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said today that Cubans living in Miami and New York City have demanded an end to the economic and financial blockade by the United States against Cuba, and have reiterated their solidarity with the island. During a news conference at the United Nations, Alarcon presented a stack of papers containing the signatures of more than 10,000 citizens of Cuban origin residing in Miami who believe that the blockade should be lifted because it affects the welfare of the Cuban people, including their own relatives.

Yesterday, the CNN television network featured footage of a protest held by Cuban residents of Miami who characterized the blockade, which includes foodstuffs and medicines, as inhumane. During his speech to the UN General Assembly, Alarcon de Quesada said that yesterday a large group of Cubans from New York and surrounding areas expressed their solidarity with Cuba in front of the UN building.

U.S. Pressure To Avoid 'Blockade' Debate Noted

FL1411221191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras: "Our Opinion"]

[Text] Today, the UN will debate the Cuban resolution on the need for the United States to end its blockade, which has been imposed on our country for more than three decades. Today, I am not going to talk about the incredible pressure that the U.S. has brought to bear to evade the discussion of this issue at the UN. Press agencies from different countries around the world, including the United States, have made reference to the pressure which has been applied after confidential instructions were sent to the U.S. embassies and to U.S. delegates at the UN.

Today, I would like to talk about one topic which may be the most simple, the most simple in international relations: It is the Bush administration's opposition to a debate. If the United States, through its government, is convinced that what it has applied against Cuba for the last thirty years is a bilateral issue, then why object that the UN, the international public, and the United States public learn of their arguments? Any nation that is convinced that it is right, that its laws, and international practices, and even the ethics of its conduct are good would not object to letting others hear its arguments before the international community.

But why use pressure together with blackmail so that no one may discuss it? Not even to speak in favor of the United States? I am very convinced that the closest allies of the United States—Great Britain, Germany, and other countries that belong to NATO—would not hesitate to support the United States verbally or with their votes if they could see a pretext in the U.S. position, even if it were controversial in a legal or trade practice point of view. But, the United States does not want anyone to talk together.

The truth is that in these times no one can be in favor of a blockade. Cuba considers that what it has suffered for these decades under succesive U.S. Administrations has been a blockade and not an embargo. Washington assures that it is an embargo. Dozens, hundreds of facts prove that it is a blockade because there have been, and there still exist, pressures and sanctions against third countries over specific transactions, or in intended trade, with our country. According to the definition adopted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the policy and practices by the United States against Cuba meet the description of a blockade, not an embargo. If Washington is convinced that it is not a blockade, then why will they not discuss it at the UN on the basis of international rights?

The Bush administration has adopted a closed-mouth attitude; no one will speak; no one will debate; there must be silence; it must not be discussed; no judicial base will be viewed; and whoever does must face the consequences which are clearly expressed by the pressures that in reality are a threat, coercion similar to blackmail. Whoever acts like this does not listen to reason, law, nor international rights, but only to force.

Troop Withdrawal Talks With Soviets To Begin

PA1411232891 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2026 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 14 Nov (DPA)—It has been confirmed that Cuban and Soviet military officers and diplomats will begin talks here on 15 November on the Soviet troop withdrawal from the island.

"The mission, headed by special envoy Vyacheslav Ustinov, arrived on 13 November and is now resting in Varadero before it begins talks with the Cuban delegation," Boris Ivanoshenko, press attache of the Soviet Embassy in Havana, announced.

In statements to DPA, he said that he does not know the extent of the dialogue, because in his opinion "it depends on many things."

According to the source, Ustinov is accompanied by Colonel General German Burutin, first deputy chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the Army General Staff [name and title as received], and Vasiliy Gromov, first deputy chief of the Latin American Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The same source said the mission includes Major General Pavel Andreyev, deputy chief of the First Operations

Directorate of the General Staff, and Lieutenant General Vladimir Tsuetlkov [name as received].

"Ustinov has been instructed by President Mikhail Gorbachev to plan the withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade stationed on the island," Ivanoshenko said, noting the possibility that a news conference will be planned on the topic.

A Cuban diplomatic source said that the Cuban Government "maintains" its position that the Soviet troop withdrawal must be contemplated within the context of the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Guantanamo.

"That would be only fair, just, and honorable in the current circumstances," according to the diplomatic source in Havana, who said that "the Soviet withdrawal is an invitation for the United States to attack."

The Soviet Government; however, has said several times that "there is no connection between the Soviet troop withdrawal and the return of Guantanamo Naval Base to the Cubans."

President Gorbachev announced the troop withdrawal during a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last September. This was interpreted by observers as a Soviet concession to the intense pressure by Washington.

Meanwhile, silence is maintained regarding the visit to Havana by Vladimir Chernavin, deputy defense minister and Soviet fleet admiral. According to the Soviet source, his visit "is not connected with the talks."

Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL1411170391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Soviet delegation that was scheduled to arrive to begin talks on the presence in Cuba of a Soviet military brigade, arrived in our capital on Wednesday. Special Ambassador Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich Ustinov heads the delegation which was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Alcibiades Hidalgo, first vice foreign minister of Cuba, Division General Sergio del Valle, and Colonel Miguel Barreiro, head of the Foreign Relations Directorate of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Members of the Soviet delegation, among other high-ranking officials of the USSR and of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, are Colonel General (Aleksandrovich Burutin), vice chairman of this delegation and first deputy chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the Army General Staff, and Vasiliy Petrovich Gromov, first deputy chief of the Latin American Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Trade Minister Signs Agreement With Lithuania

FL1411192591 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Today, Cuba and Lithuania signed an agreement that establishes, among other things, the sale to our country of products such as meat, milk, electric motors, refrigerators, furniture, motorcycles, and bicycles. The agreement was signed at the end of the visit by Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban minister of foreign trade, in Vilnius. The agreement also anticipates the sale to Lithuania of sugar, tropical fruits, and other exportable items.

Mexico City Protest of U.S. Blockade Hailed

FL1411233191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro from Mexico City—recorded]

[Text] [Crowd chants: Oil for Cuba; Mexican Oil for the Cubans]

[Unidentified speaker] Bonds. Mexican oil for Cuban bonds. Bonds are sold here.

[Castro] We are reporting direct from Mexico City.

On Sunday thousands of Mexicans formed a human chain in solidarity with Cuba and against the criminal U.S. blockade of the Caribbean island. The demonstration was organized by the solidarity group, Go Cuba, which is composed of activists of all political ideologies, including student, union, and religious organizations. The chain began at UN headquarters and extended to the U.S. Embassy here in Mexico City. The organizers of the march said that the human chain blocked the embassy for half an hour so they would know what it feels like.

The call for formation of the chain stated that expressing solidarity with Cuba today means defending the principles of liberty, sovereignty, and social justice that the peoples of our America are demanding. Those calling for the formation of the human chain emphasized that supporting Cuba means defending the achievements of a social project that, despite its defects and inadequacies, and confronted by the most powerful and warmongering force in the world, has been able to put an end to the scourges of hunger, disease, and ignorance. The call also stated that in these times, when at the United Nations the issue of the U.S. blockade of Cuba must be discussed, thousands of Mexican voices have joined in a unanimous cry for an end to this blockade against the Caribbean island.

During the course of the human chain and demonstration held in front of the U.S. Embassy here in Mexico City, hundreds of signatures condemning this blockade were obtained. These signatures will be sent to the United Nations in New York.

[First unidentified speaker] Our purpose is to protest the 30 years of the indiscriminate blockade against Cuba.

[Second unidentified speaker] We must, in some way, express our views and say that we are against this.

[Third unidentified speaker] We must support Cuba so that it can break the economic blockade they are experiencing.

[Fourth unidentified speaker] The gringos are always, in some way, oppressing the weak. Well, I do not think that Cuba is weak, but the gringos only want to take advantage of the situation. We must show our support so the gringos will not take advantage of these situations.

[Fifth unidentified speaker] We have taken too long in doing this. I think that the Cuban people are the ones who should decide their form of government, and what they decide is what should be done. No other country has the right to interfere in the external [as heard] affairs of another country.

[Sixth unidentified speaker] We support the Cuban people, we support the Cuban revolution, and we always will. We believe that the blockade must end. To defend Cuba now is to defend Latin America and the Third World countries.

[Castro] Cameraman Antonio Gomez and reporter Nelson Notario Castro brought this report to you from Mexico City, during this great event in solidarity with Cuba.

Robaina's Visit to Spain, News Conference

FL0911161491 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pires from Barcelona, Spain, on the "Doing Radio" program hosted by Jorge Ibarra—live]

[Excerpt] [Martinez] Roberto Robaina [first secretary of the Union of Young Communists] just left here, very reluctantly a few minutes ago, but he promised that tomorrow he will speak to the "Doing Radio" audience of millions.

[Announcer Jorge Ibarra] We will be waiting.

[Martinez] He is willing to continue breaking with formality, as it was done during the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Congress, and he wants just this: live direct dialogue with all the Cuban people. So I will be in contact with you tomorrow between 1000 GMT and 1400 GMT to see how we can arrange this. But for right now, on Saturday morning, Robaina will meet in the morning with the secretary general of the Socialist Youth of Catalonia. Remember that today he met with the secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE], the governing party. Tomorrow he will meet with the secretary general of the PSOE youth organization. At 1100 he will meet with the Central Committee of the (?Initiative for Catalonia) party, and he will meet with the secretary general of that party. This is really an association of various organizations ranging from leftist to centrist.

At 1230 Barcelona time, which is 0630 in Cuba, Robaina will meet with the Cuban delegates who are here at the Olympic facilities. I can not tell you exactly where this will be, but I can guarantee that no matter where we are I will advise you, either directly or through Radio Havana Cuba...

[Ibarra, interrupting] Perfect.

[Martinez] So you can speak directly to Roberto Robaina.

[Ibarra] Perfect.

[Martinez] So now we have an appointment, and it is also what Roberto wants to do.

[Ibarra] How long did the news conference last, Pedro?

[Martinez] The news conference lasted almost two hours.

[Ibarra] I see. What were some of the subjects discussed?

[Martinez] I would say it was very interesting because Robertico succeeded in gradually getting across the real Cuba. His comments were very credible because, well, as you know, Roberto represents a new generation of Cubans. He speaks very clearly. He talked about everything, from simple to complex issues. I must say that there was a lot of interest here in Barcelona regarding the free farmers market, because everything that happens in Cuba is of interest. Since almost everything is distorted, naturally things must be talked about and explained, and Robaina's language is [words indistinct]. I asked ...[rephrases] For example, I asked a reporter from an extreme right-wing newspaper what she thought of the news conference. She told me: Dynamite. I said: What do you mean by dynamite? Was it good or bad? She said: It was impressive. So you see, Robaina's comments were convincing here.

For example, when he discussed the specific case of the free farmers market, he explained how right now in Cuba, after the Fourth PCC Congress, many issues have been addressed. Agricultural problems, food problems, and deficiencies in distribution services to the population were explicitly discussed. Robaina said that more important than the free farmers market is the fact that doors are opening to all the work being done with the small gardens. Well, I think, this is a revolution in itself from the point of view of agriculture. This may be, as Robaina has said, a better way of responding to the current conditions in Cuba, the food needs of the Cuban people.

Robaina was also very critical about paternalism in our society. He said very clearly that Cuba treats bums the same as those who work 14-hour days, and of course this needs to change. He spoke about the black market in

Cuba, and he was asked about tomatoes. He said: Look, much more important than tomatoes, for example, is the problem with soap right now. In our country this is a basic need. There are some people who are speculating in soap, and they are selling it at astronomical prices. Soap is a family need.

From there he moved on to the topic of bureaucracy, everything that was copied from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union. He said we must wage a very difficult, very harsh battle with a lot of realism, but also a lot of urgency, against an entire bureaucratic apparatus which is really a hindrance to the improvement of Cuban society. He said: Look, the problems are not at high levels in the government. The problems are chiefly at some intermediate levels of the bureaucracy which really oppose the changes that are needed in Cuba.

Then Robaina spoke about the role young people are playing in Cuba at this time, and how some people in our society still do not recognize the role of young people. Sometimes people say that the young people still need to mature, and mature and mature. The years pass and some young people just rot, and they can never put their great potential, their great intelligence, into action. He spoke very frankly. I have here an excerpt of what he said. Ibarra, I do not know if we have time, but maybe it would be interesting to hear Robert Robaina himself speak to about 40 to 50 reporters from Catalonia and other Spanish regions during his news conference which concluded just a few minutes ago here at the consulate in Barcelona.

[Ibarra] Yes, we have time. Let us hear it.

[Martinez] OK, let us listen to this excerpt. I hope I am lucky and you can hear a good piece. [passage omitted of unmonitorable Robaina statement]

Further on Robaina Activities

FL1211161991 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pires from Madrid, Spain, on "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] Roberto Robaina, the highest ranking Cuban youth leader, arrived in Madrid on 11 November on the second leg of his trip to Spain. Robaina arrived in Spain on 7 November. He was in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, where he closed the Cuba Integral exhibit. The exhibit was open to the public for 10 days at the most important exhibit center in Catalonia.

Roberto Robaina has carried out many activities today in Madrid. He hardly had time to shake the dust off, as Cuban hero Jose Marti said, when he headed for the Radio Nacional studios where he was interviewed by one of the most important Spanish interviewers, (Paco Lovaton). The interview lasted approximately 30 minutes and was broadcast live by Radio Nacional. Roberto Robaina said that there are three generations working together in Cuba to perfect society. The youths play an important role in Cuba's present and future because youth make up 60 percent of the approximately 11 million Cubans.

Regarding the special period and the international economic crisis that is affecting Cuba, Roberto Robaina said that the situation is tense and difficult, worsened because of 30 years of U.S. blockade and the disaster of European socialism. However, Robaina said, the Cuban people grow in the face of adversity. These are not the best times for Cuba, but the people are better prepared today than ever before. The Cuban youth leader said that the majority of the people support the Cuban revolution and added that capitalism will never return to Cuba. Cuba will never again be a U.S. brothel, Robaina warned. The Cuban people do not want to return to the past; the Cuban people will never renounce the achievements of the revolution.

Robaina said that Cuba has not remained at a standstill. He said that the country is economically developing locally and abroad. The youth leader said that rectification came before and is quite different from the Soviet perestroyka. We have nothing to copy from others, the member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba said.

Speaking of democracy, Robaina said that in Cuba we have our democracy which we are perfecting and we are allergic to foreign pressure. He said that everyone knows what happens when one yields to U.S. pressure. Cuba will not yield, Robaina said. In Cuba, the workers and students have weapons to defend their socialist democracy.

When asked about relations between Cuba and Spain, Robaina said that the Spanish people support Cuba because of its worthy and courageous stance. He added that despite different ideologies, the relations between Cuba and Spain are solid and special. He added that Cuba and Spain are very much alike. Regarding the possibility of a visit by King Juan Carlos to Cuba, Robaina said if the king wishes to visit the island he will be warmly greeted.

[Begin Robaina recording] We are more than happy to greet visitors in the country. We are more than happy to have people visit the country. If he were to visit the country, I can assure you he will receive a warm welcome, the kind of welcome all visitors to our country receive. I repeat, there are feelings that go beyong [words indistinct] the Spanish and Cuban peoples. [end recording]

When asked what Cuba seeks in Spain, Robaina said that Cuba seeks to strengthen ties and understanding for the Cuban revolution. We want both sides of the story to be heard, not only the anti-Cuban propaganda but the Cuban side as well. We want every Spanish citizen to reach his own conclusions.

Throughout the day Roberto Robaina met with leaders of several youth organizations—left-wing, right-wing, and center organizations.

Meetings With Spanish Officials

FL1311194491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Today in Madrid, Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists and Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba, met with (Martin Leguina), president of the Spanish capital's government of the autonomous community. According to PRENSA LATINA, the Madrilenian official talked to the Cuban leader of his interest in developing different methods of cooperation with the island. PRENSA LATINA also reported that Robaina and (Leguina) exchanged ideas concerning working with youth and other aspects of the international scene.

Roberto Robaina also met with Elena Flores, foreign relations director for the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and Antonio Gutierrez, secretary general of the Workers Commission, one of the two most important trade unions of Spain.

Latin American Workers Organization Meets

FL0911154391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The meeting of the Council of the Permanent Congress for Latin American Workers Trade Union Unity [CPUSTAL], which had lasted for two days here in Room Five of the Convention Center, ended today. The essence of the CPUSTAL discussions has been its legality and organization [validez y organicidad], in the current times; that is, the financial problems being faced because of the disappearance of the socialist bloc, and the readjustment of CPUSTAL's work plans given the setback to the international communist movement. Of course, this includes the new economic realities in Latin America.

The debates concluded by deciding to maintain CPUSTAL, which was formed in 1964 and has a history linked to solidarity with Cuba and the socialist program. The consensus has been, I repeat, to maintain CPUSTAL, dynamize it, renew it from the leadership to its own fundamental work principles. This implies self-financing, broadening of its work base, and greater influence among Latin American workers based on defending them from the consequences of neoconservatism. The resolutions approved here specified these aims.

Venezuelan Banking Officials End Visit

PA0911030391 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] A group of 45 leaders and members of the Association of Professionals of the Central Bank of Venezuela just ended a visit to Cuba that began on 31 October.

During their stay in Cuba, the Venezuelan visitors met with authorities of the National Bank of Cuba and toured various areas of economic and social interest.

The Venezuelan guests received detailed information on government plans for economic and social development from government officials and institutions.

Sports Agreement With Venezuela Signed

FL1411221091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] [Venezuelan] Francisco Diez, president of the National Sports Institute, has described the sports agreement between Cuba and Venezuela as beneficial and positive. Diez said that even though the agreement was only recently signed, Cuban trainers advise that results can already be seen. The Venezuelan Government and federations have demonstrated their interest and have requested that the stay of Cuban trainers be extended.

Cuban trainers are currently working in Venezuelan sports in such specialties as water polo, weight lifting, wrestling, rowing, gymnastics, boxing, shooting, scoring, and track and field. Even though the technical level of Cuban trainers is outstanding, the agreement has allowed the exchange of experience in such sports as bowling, and tae-kwan-do, which are two sports that Cuba has just begun to develop.

Government To Sign Sports Agreement With Brazil

PA1411194691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] On 11 November, (Bernard Rachman), Brazil's secretary of state in charge of sports, arrived in Havana to sign an important sports agreement with Cuba and deliver a letter from President Collor de Mello to his counterpart Fidel Castro concerning a possible meeting between the two leaders.

(Rachman), who heads a delegation as the president's special envoy, said his visit to Havana is the result of President Collor de Mello's special interest in Cuba. According to (Rachman) the Brazilian president wonders how, with a population of 11 million, Cuba is one of the leading powers in the sports world.

(Rachman), a former member of Brazil's national volley ball team, stated: I bring a greeting and a message to Fidel Castro from Collor de Mello asking Cuba to support Brasilia's candidacy to host the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

Construction Workers Relocated To Agriculture

FL0911160291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1504 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Approximately 40,000 of the more than 189,000 Construction Ministry [Micons] workers have been relocated and are now performing other tasks or are in training. This was learned during a meeting of the Micons directorate. It was reported that 15,000 Micons workers are currently performing agricultural tasks and are either members of an agricultural contingent or are temporarily mobilized. Only 2,100 construction workers are at home and receiving 60 percent of their wages. This is proof of the effort and work being done by Micons to relocate its excess personnel in light of the problems confronted by the country. Despite all this, and with less fuel and resources, the Micons has been able to complete 490 works this year. By the end of 1991, the number of works completed will surpass previous years.

Friendship Associations Donate Medicine

FL0911113991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] A shipment of medicine valued at 40,000 dollars has been donated to Cuba by friendship associations in Martinique and Guadeloupe as a token of solidarity with Cuba. Sergio Corrieri, the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP], thanked Mr. Hector Pompe, honorary president of the Martinique Friendship Association, for the gesture. This donation is part of the international campaign which is being organized against the embargo. The ICAP president gave Mr. Pompe a certificate of recognition for his continued demonstrations of solidarity. The friendship associations of Martinique and Guadaloupe have sent various donations to our country.

Activities at International Trade Fair Noted

Castro, Basque Minister Interviewed

FL1211142991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Interview with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Basque Trade and Tourism Minister Rosa Diaz by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Diaz] Basque businessmen have been working with Cuba for some time now, during the difficult years and at this moment. I have come to the fair in Havana and have found that there is an enterprising group of Basque businessmen who are willing to continue risking capital in this country, continue doing their best to bring technology and trained people to this country. On behalf of the Basque Government I would like to say that the receptiveness I have found in Cuba has been encouraging.

[Castro] I am witnessing this event. The minister is here visiting us and I have had two or three opportunities to meet with the businessmen and to talk about this. I also had the opportunity to witness the signing of two agreements. One agreement is for the construction of electrical equipment aimed at conserving energy, and the other is this tourist development plan which is very important. It is truly very important.

I came here to attend the reception being hosted by the minister and found that yesterday the Basque enterprise had made progress in its talks with the Cubans and today they had the basic agreement ready. However, I did not know that the signing of the agreement would be today. That was a coincidence. However, it has been a privilege to be here.

[Reporter] There has been much trade activity with the Basque businessmen. We saw this at the fair.

[Castro] Even before the fair talks were being held. The activity at the fair was noteworthy. You were there, you know more about that than I do. I was not able to visit the fair during those days. I went to the fair this morning to visit the Cuban stands. There were many people visiting the fair; therefore, it was impossible to visit the stands. There were many stands to visit and you are in trouble if you visit one and not the other. Therefore, I had to refrain from visiting the foreign stands. I could have told the Cubans to leave their stands up for another day, but I did not want to delay them. They were already tearing down the stands. I came to get an overall view of what it was like and it looked good.

[Reporter] Commander, what is your impression of this fair?

[Castro] It is good. According to the information I have received and according to what the people I have talked to have said, it is good. But I cannot give you my personal opinion. I was only there briefly on two or three occasions; the day it was inaugurated, the day the agreement with the Basque enterprise was signed, and today. No, I was also there on the day the awards were presented.

[Reporter] You were...

[Castro, interrupting] A few minutes ago...[changes thoughts] I did not go to the award ceremony. I was there to talk to the director and get some information from her and found that there was an award ceremony scheduled for 1900. So I went. I visited the delegation several times.

[Reporter] Your presence was an encouragement for the participants.

[Castro] I am happy to hear that.

[Reporter] We have also talked with many participants from several countries and a great spirit of cooperation with Cuba has prevailed at this fair. This is evident in the agreements signed, in the negotiations that are under way.

[Castro] Some agreements have been signed, but above all, many negotiations are under way.

[Reporter] Important negotiations, especially trade associations.

[Castro] You cannot close a business deal in 48 hours. Many agreements were signed. Many talks and negotiations have been held regarding future businesses.

[Reporter] Especially in areas that are important for our economy such as the energy sector.

[Castro] The energy sector. All the negotiations under way are important. The equipment we are purchasing is for use in key areas.

[Reporter] That is correct.

[Castro] We do not buy luxury items. We buy equipment for our laboratories, research centers, and factories. We do not spend a single centavo on things we do not need. We spend to increase our production and exports. This is important at this moment.

Well, we cannot keep the minister waiting.

[Diaz] President Fidel Castro had his mind made up. I know much about the Cuban revolution, the history of the Cuban revolution. I know that the commander in chief represents the Cuban people; therefore, the Cuban people will be his best judge and I do believe they think highly of him. I had the honor of sharing many hours of talks with him. I had the honor of having him answer our calls and attend our dinners. As a person, I am taking back with me a memory I will never forget.

Castro at Agreement Signing

FL1211025191 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Mrs. Rosa Diaz, Basque trade and tourism minister, have attended the creation of Cuba, S.A., a mixed enterprise formed by (Gruebax, S.A.) and Cubanacan. The agreement creating this mixed enterprise was signed by Cubanacan President Abraham Maciques, (Gruebax, S.A.) President (Javier Dossamis), and (Gruebax, S.A.) director and manager (Jose Maria Regi). This joint enterprise will be responsible for promoting tourist development along the southern coast of the Isle of Youth where 3,500 rooms will be built in two stages.

(Gruebax, S.A.) was created eight months ago by approximately 40 Basque enterprises. The creation of Cuba S.A. is its first project.

[Begin recording] [Diaz] Today we learned that the creation of another enterprise had been discussed. This enterprise is also interested in developing tourism. I am speaking of (Gruebax). They have asked us to give them a few minutes, that we delay our reception for a few minutes, so that they may sign the agreement with Cuba. This is another important agreement.

I wish to say that I have been given every assurance that Cuba will respond to our efforts; that Cuba will respond to the risk that our businessmen are taking by coming to this country, or any other country. The Basque Government promises to respond in the same measure. The Cuban commitment has been confirmed by the presence of the Cuban president at this ceremony.

[Castro] We like to take everything seriously. We like to do things seriously. On this occasion our obligations are even greater for those who have placed their trust in Cuba, for those who challenged fears, for those who had trust in our country and decided to go ahead with this investment. Please rest assured that you will have the cooperation and support of the Cuban Government. It also pleases me to be able to say that you can count on the cooperation and support of our workers and our people. This will contribute to the creation of unbreakable ties between the Basque country and Cuba, between your people and our people, between the Spanish people and our people. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Fernandez Greets Galicians

FL1111143391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Yesterday, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, welcomed 20 Galician mayors and 15 businessmen to Havana on a working visit and vacation. Speaking for the Cuban Government, Fernandez expressed pleasure with this visit which is a continuation of the friendly bilateral exchanges that had one of its crowning moments with the recent visit of Manuel Fraga, president of the Galician Council.

Today, Fernandez, together with the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, will meet again with the group to discuss subjects of mutual interest.

Castro Meets With Galicians

FL1311171691 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Last night Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met at Revolutionary Square with a large group of deputies, mayors, and businessmen from Galicia. Most of the group comes from the provinces of Coruna and Lugo.

The group is composed of 120 Galicians. They arrived in Cuba on 10 November, with family, cultural, and tourist interests. Their meeting with Deputy Cesar Aja resulted in, among other things, their first contact with economic results.

During the conversation, Fidel expressed interest in Galicia's economic and social development. He also spoke about Cuba's efforts to develop agricultural, industrial, and biotechnical programs. In response to Mayor Eloy Rodriguez' question on Fidel's impression

of Don Manuel Fraga, president of Galicia, Fidel characterized Fraga as a very intelligent and prepared person, a hard worker, who impressed everyone.

Galicians Meet With Officials

FL1211214391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The group of Galician mayors and businessmen visiting our country convened today at noon with Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Julio Garcia Olivera, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. During the meeting, the Galician delegates, all from Lugo Province, received a synopsis of the economic and political situation of the country and the priorities established to overcome the current difficulties and to achieve economic independence. Likewise, they were [words indistinct] in the country. Details of Law 50, which establishes guidelines for the formation of mixed enterprises on the island, was explained to them. During an interview with our reporter, Deputy Cesar Aja described the nature of the trip.

[Begin Aja recording—identified by caption] In the beginning, this trip was organized as a tourist jaunt for rapprochement between our area, Lugo Province, and the Galicians from Lugo residing in Havana. Because of the great number of existing organizations, we decided to invite other mayors. We felt it would be interesting for them and their people to participate in these visits. As a result of all this, initial contacts have been made with the businessmen who participated, as well as preliminary evaluations and impressions, and an exchange between Cuban and Galician enterprises. The truth is that at the moment we can make neither a positive nor a negative evaluation. There have been initial contacts which may later develop into something positive of mutual interest to our countries, Cuba and Spain. [end recording]

Enterprises Sign Agreements

FL1111204191 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Ninth International Fair, which was held for eight days at the ExpoCuba installations in Havana, was visited by 14,000 persons. During the fair, Cuba signed 80 trade agreements with more than 100 Latin American companies. The creation of a Basque-Cuban mixed enterprise for the production of technologies that will enable energy conservation in our nation, was another of the achievements derived from the international event that just concluded in Havana.

Host Country Receives Medals

FL0911175691 Havana Radio Progreso Networkdd Nov 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has described as excellent the relations between the foreigners and Cubans who have participated in the Ninth International Fair in Havana. During the award presentation ceremony, Castro said that he is pleased with the agreements signed for the creation of enterprises between Cuban and foreign institutions. At the international fair, which ends tomorrow, Cuba received 25 gold medals for quality, 18 prizes for design, and its pavilion received special recognition. Spain, Mexico, and China also received awards.

Castro Attends Awards Ceremony

FL0911153291 Havana Tele Rebelde Networkdd 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has attended the Ninth International Fair award ceremony in Havana. Castro presented the Cuban Pavilion with a diploma for its excellent representation. Castro also presented awards to the representatives of Iraq, Cyprus, and the Dominican Republic. It is the first time these three countries have participated in the fair. [Words indistinct] our commander in chief described the international fair as good and was pleased with the ties established between Cuba and [words indistinct]. Speaking on behalf of the Cuban people, Castro [words indistinct] and, in particular, Latin America.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro described the tourist development plan for the Isle of Youth as very good. The plan was presented by (Westba), a Basque mixed enterprise and Cubanacan. During a visit to the pavilion where 11 Basque organizations presented their products, Castro witnessed the signing of an agreement creating a mixed enterprise with Cuba. The enterprise will be known as Cubastec. Cubastec is aimed at conserving energy in all sectors and [words indistinct] for every ton of mineral put through the ovens.

Maritime Commerce Agreements

PA1411153191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] A group of Latin American agencies and companies that inspect and repair ships and conduct other international maritime commerce activities have signed a letter of intent at the Ninth Havana International Fair.

Companies from Central America and the Caribbean, most notably private companies from Venezuela, Panama, Jamaica, Brazil, and Nicaragua, signed a document that examines the possibility of creating a Latin American association of ship inspectors.

Intermar, Inc and Cuba Control represented Cuba at the signing ceremony.

Commentary on Foreign Investment Policy

PA1411153291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The Cuban policy favoring foreign investments seeks to further exploit the country's scientific development and industrial capacity, in which more than $15

billion have been invested. Cuba's participation in the most important international fairs allows the country to broaden its contacts and explore areas of possible joint ventures. In Latin America specifically, it encourages integration. Numerous foreign firms have stated their interest in associating themselves with Cuba's economy. This is proved by the results of the recently concluded Ninth Havana Fair, in which Cuban trade enterprises signed approximately 80 import-export contracts.

Economic associations in the form of mixed enterprises, joint production, and other forms represent the basis of 50 agreements reached this year between Cuba and entities in different countries. In addition, approximately 150 agreements are currently being discussed with investors from 26 countries. The areas that mostly interest foreign investors include joint production of vaccines and medicine and their marketing in third countries. The Cuban construction materials industry received requests for combined production and purchases from several Latin American countries, while the manufacturing industry received many proposals for joint ventures.

The list is obviously longer but these examples give an idea of the island's perspectives in its contacts abroad, which are always based on the understanding that it will not lose control of its economy. The success of the policy favoring foreign investments is possible given the facilities granted by the Cuban Government within the framework of its domestic laws, its high scientific-technical levels, and its many available options—the result of principles and technologies developed by local experts. Many visitors have been able to ascertain that Cuban specialists are capable of assimilating any new technology and manufacturing products whose quality is equal to, or higher than, those on the world market.

Official Asturian Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL1411150691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The president of the Asturian Principality, Juan Luis Rodriguez Vigil Rubio, arrived in our country at the head of an official delegation. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met Vigil at approximately 2100 last night at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Vigil is accompanied by high-level officials of the Asturian Government, including 14 mayors; 3 councilmen; 47 businessmen; and reporters. Laura Gonzalez, president of the Asturian Principality General Council; and Rafael Fernandez, Spanish senator and president of the Austurian Council of Communities, along with other leaders of the Asturian presidential cabinet, also form part of the delegation. They were also greeted by leaders of the Cuban Communist Party and of the Cuban Government, members of the diplomatic corps, and a representation of the Asturian colony residing in Cuba.

The president of the Asturian Principality, Juan Luis Rodriguez Vigil, holds a law degree from the University of Oviedo and belongs to the technical staff of the civil organization [words indistinct]. Before his arrival in Cuba, the Asturian president [words indistinct] economic and commercial embargo applied by the United States against Cuba and said that this does not facilitate understanding between countries and the opening of Cuba to the world.

During his first day in Cuba, Vigil and the delegation accompanying him will visit the historical section of Havana, the Asturian Federation, the former Asturian palace which today is the Supreme Court building. Business meetings will begin at the Palace of Conventions later today.

Castro Meets Asturian Delegation

FL1511032591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Asturian delegation visiting Cuba followed a very tight agenda today. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, met today with Juan Rodriguez Vigil, president of the Principality of Asturias, and the delegation accompanying him. The friendly meeting was held in the residence of the Spanish ambassador to Cuba. [passage omitted]

Comment on Economic Situation, Required Behavior

FL1511030491 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Station commentary: "Focus"]

[Text] Food is an issue that troubles all of us. Of course, not all of us have the same perception, or the same understanding of the problem, nor do all of us realize that the country has been forced from outside to hastily enter the special period. As a result of this startling adversity, in the last few months we have faced difficulties, our domestic troubles have increased, and some of the comforts of consumption have diminished. Nevertheless, the country is making a very valiant effort to maintain its policy of social justice, and to guarantee its approximately 11 million inhabitants the standard of living needed to ensure that no one is left unprotected. Week after week, the untiring work of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers has been directed toward avoiding any signs of deterioration during this crisis, to draft strategies to find solutions to current problems, and to accelerate the prospects of development. Without a true policy of popular priority, any other country would have already succumbed.

The problem in our case is that traditional markets disappeared overnight and the U.S. blockade has brutally intensified. Despite these problems and difficult circumstances, the government has virtually accomplished miracles to ensure that the people do not lack

basic goods. This has required contacting foreign markets to make reduced purchases this year in order to provide basic supplies, which has amounted to tens of hundreds of tons of cooking oil, rice, beans, soap, detergents, poultry, canned meats, milk, and many other products. Logically, in the case of meat products, for example, the country has been forced to lengthen the distribution cycles to which we were accustomed as recently as 1989, due to market problems and a shortage of animal feed for national production.

When we talk about performing miracles, we have to keep in mind the fact that the country has not always had the funds necessary to make purchases. The U.S. blockade is obstructing our access to many markets, and for the last 12 years, has made it difficult for Cuba to obtain new loans which could provide financial flexibility. Such volumes of foodstuffs, even with dollars in hand, are nevertheless to be found only in widely scattered markets, which further complicates negotiations and shipments, and inevitably changes distribution cycles in such a way that sometimes it is necessary for the products to proceed from the pier directly to the stores.

This process of the domestic economy is of course not always efficient, nor do the stores, when it comes time to serve the people, have the necessary insight to reduce tensions, and therefore operate bureaucratically, with negligence, lack of social discipline, and relaxed standards. We must also acknowledge that not all consumers contribute to the organization and order needed in these stores. These problems, which are dependent on domestic administration and the behavior of each citizen, can be solved at each locality by the efforts of the masses. No one should underestimate the enormous effort centrally conducted by the government at a time when everyone's behavior should reflect the upright consciousness of one for all and all for one.

Castro Speaks on Literacy in Melena del Sur

FL1411035391 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0154 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Speech by President Fidel Castro marking 30th anniversary of end of literacy campaign in Melena del Sur on 8 November—recorded]

[Text] [applause] [crowd shouts "Fidel!"] Dear comrades of Melena del Sur. [crowd chants indistinct slogans] I do not want you to think that I am not punctual. The truth is, well, what happened was that I knew you were having one or two events in this municipality to mark the 30th anniversary of the end of the literacy campaign. On 5 November I scheduled a tour of Havana Province and dropped in at the 5 November event being held at the school. I did not know which event would be more important. Later, Comrade Lemus and other comrades told me that the main event would be held on the afternoon of 8 November. At that time I could not promise that I would be here. I did say that I wanted to participate in the event, and some residents and comrades also wanted me to participate; but I also had commitments scheduled for the week. At this very moment, the International Fair is being held in Havana and for us, that event is very important. Several commercial transactions are being made. Therefore, I did not know what to do. At 1600 I had to be present at the signing of an agreement for the creation of a mixed enterprise between our country and a group of Basque businessmen. I had promised to be there. So I asked myself: What should I do? In the end, what I did was try to attend the two events. I had to go to that other event, [applause] so I went there. [applause] ExpoCuba is on the way to Melena del Sur. I went there, did what I had to do quickly, and came here. Despite all that, I got here late. I heard that Armando Hart was breaking out in a cold sweat. [laughter] Not breaking out of town, but breaking out in a cold sweat. [applause] Comrade Armando was given a piece of paper asking him to continue talking. I know what that can be like. A person starts talking, [laughter] the public begins to get tired, [laughter] but that person has to continue to talk and talk, about anything. I know you are very nice and kind people and would not have given him any signs that you were getting tired. I heard that Comrade Hart talked, talked, and talked. I heard he talked for approximately 50 minutes, and all because of me. The organizers of the event could have said that Armando ran out of fuel [laughter] and that he was going to take a break. They could have asked you to wait a few minutes because another guest was on his way. They could have said that, because they knew I was on my way.

One of the reasons I did not get here earlier was because of that doggone road, that famous freeway that has been under construction for so many years. [applause] After the 26 July events were held in Havana, we said that the freeway had to be completed. For some time now we have been cutting into the mountains in that area. You know that the area between Havana and Melena del Sur is a mountainous area. Huge excavations were made and we do not know how much dynamite was used to open stretches. A few months ago we asked the Ministry of Construction to make a special effort and complete at least one lane that would end here. It is true that we have had problems with fuel and other problems, but it is also true that we could have done something to finish building at least one lane of that road. [applause]

You have no idea the detours one has to take to get to Melena del Sur. It is a miracle that no one gets lost, and then there is the fuel and gasoline that is used up. I am sure that the fuel we use to finish that lane will be saved in a matter of months because of all the detours the trucks, cars, and buses have to make to get to the capital city. [applause] Therefore, I am going to make it a point to continue the battle and speak to the ministry. [applause] Even if we are living in a special time, or whatever, finish the lane and tell me when the hell it will be finished. What little asphalt we have we can use on that lane. Let us finish that lane and once we have more

asphalt, we can build the second lane. It would save us lots of time, resources, and fuel. We must remember that Melena del Sur is one of the largest food producing enterprises. All this has to be taken to the capital. A huge potato crop is grown here. Plantain and many agricultural products are grown here and all this must be taken to the capital. We have been aware of the need for this road for quite some time now.

Well, today, as we have said quite often, we are commemorating a truly historic date, a date worth recalling. That day marked—not the day it ended, which was 5 November, the day the event that led to all this confusion was held—the end of the literacy campaign in this very municipality and in this very city. This municipality was the first in the country to end the literacy campaign. This is a historic fact at local and international levels. No other country has carried out the literacy campaign like Cuba has. Cuba did it in a year. I believe that it is a great achievement and glory that will always be remembered. Melena del Sur was the first municipality to be declared free of illiteracy in Cuba and in Latin America. [applause]

I do not want to repeat many of the same ideas, but recently while talking with some neighbors of the 5 de Noviembre School, I explained to them that none of the things that we have today would have been possible without that literacy campaign. From that place we were able to see schools in the countryside. In those times we could not even have dreamed of it, nor even of basic middle schools in the countryside or in the cities, or high schools in the countryside, or schools for teachers, or schools for physical education teachers, or Camilitos schools, or athletics schools, or dozens of university schools throughout the country. Without the literacy campaign, we could not have dreamed of the hundreds of thousands of upper level university graduates we have today. Without it, we could not have thought of having, as we do today, 300,000 professors and teachers, 300,000. Notice how human and intellectual resources have been accumulating in our country. Without it, we would not have the more than 40,000 doctors we have today. But if we speak of doctors, we must also mention the tens of thousands of agronomists, civil engineers, electrical engineers, economists, and scientists. Without it, we would not have today the tens of thousands of scientists who are working so hard to help the country overcome the problems of the special period. In other words, 30 years later, our people are reaping the enormous harvest of what was planted in them. Thanks to this scientific knowledge, and thanks to the intellectual level reached by our people, we have one of the highest levels of education among all Third World countries. No other country in the Third World, among more than 100 countries, has the level of education of Cuba. There are many developed countries that do not have the levels of education of Cuba. Even in the United States there are millions of illiterates, and dozens of millions of semiliterates. It is very difficult to find an illiterate citizen here. It is very difficult to find even a semiliterate. I visit a work center, a factory; many times I ask a young worker in a factory: What is your level of education? He answers twelfth grade. A great number of Cuban workers have, if not a university education, at least twelfth or tenth grade. Many developed countries wish they had the education level of our country. This is an enormous resource, perhaps the greatest treasure created by the Cuban nation over the last 30 years. This is what makes it possible for us today to employ all this force to find solutions to problems during very difficult times. If you ask today what is the most valuable asset of our country, we would have to answer: its talent, its intelligence, its education, its preparation. [applause]

The best proof of this is the so-called Spare Parts Forum which will be held soon. It is really not a spare parts forum, it is a forum of innovation, rationalization, and all that. That is what it was called in the beginning, but today it has another name. It is going to be held annually. This year, scientists are also going to participate. Do you know how many proposals there are for the forum? There are 35,000 proposals—35,000 works, to give you an idea of the intellectual productivity of our technicians, of our trained workers, of our college professionals, and how our labor is interested in finding any kind of solution to current problems, either an agrarian problem, or an industrial problem.

One of these proposals may be on a type of seed, a new planting method, or an innovation on a piece of equipment. The proposal may be useful to our industry as well as to our food production. It might contribute to savings on parts, may conserve energy, conserve fuel. In other words, we have turned our country into a human anthill. Everyone is thinking and finding solutions to the problems we have been forced to confront as a result of the fall, or the dismemberment [desmembramiento], as I call it, of the socialist bloc because of all the mistakes which created chaos and disorganization in those countries. This was not something that occured at the bottom, it began at the top. Those at the top created the chaos and disorganization.

Our country, which had been implementing its economic and social development plan for over 30 years, based upon the solid pillars of economic relations with these other countries, has now had to confront the tremendous consequences of the problems those countries have developed. In many of those countries, socialism has disappeared and is being replaced by a system that cannot be described as anything other than primitive capitalism. Even capitalism is a system that requires organization and time. Despite its injustice and error, capitalism requires time and structure. Many former socialist countries unfortunately have neither socialism nor capitalism. They have only disorganization and chaos. It follows that our country should be facing enormous challenges and problems. We must confront these challenges and problems, and we are doing so. That is why intelligence is so important.

Intelligence is tied to the heart; [applause] the heart is tied to courage; courage is tied to patriotism; patriotism is tied to the revolutionary awareness of our people; and this awareness is tied to our historic, heroic, and glorious traditions. [applause] Tied to these traditions is our love for freedom and independence. Tied to that love for freedom and independence is the love for the land where we were born and which we have struggled for, [applause] that land that the revolution turned from a semi-colony into a free country, that land that the revolution turned from an underdeveloped country into a country that has made the most social progress in the shortest period of time in the history of mankind. Cuba was the country that created the social basis for its future development, and we love that freedom and independence. We also love our country's honor because our honor is Marti's honor, Maceo's honor, [applause] Cespedes' honor, Agramonte's honor, Maximo Gomez' honor; it is the honor of the patriots who fought the 1868 and the 1895 wars; it is the honor of the Moncada, Granma, Sierra Maestra patriots; it is the honor of our heroic internationalists. [applause] We cherish this honor and independence too deeply to accept the idea that because others crumbled [desmerengaron], Cuba's independence must drown, that the revolution must drown, that socialism that has given us so much must drown. [crowd shouts "No!"] Because we will not accept this, we are willing, above all, to work and struggle to keep the fatherland, to keep the revolution, and to keep socialism forever, despite the sacrifice. [applause] Even if we had to do with less, and fewer resources; even if we have to go to bed earlier and get up earlier; even if we have to work with oxen, mules, horses, or our bare hands, we will do all what we must do. We will produce, first of all, food. That is what we are putting our greatest efforts into and you, here in Melena del Sur, know it. We will produce medicine not only for local consumption, but for export purposes, and will turn that industry into one of the greatest export industries in the country, the medicine, biotechnology, and medical equipment industries. We will search for other sources of income, such as tourism, so that we may have the necessary money to purchase much of those raw materials we do not have today. We will work with the same spirit with which we work to ensure that no industry stops operating, that no industry is closed. If we do not have the raw materials, we will find them no matter what. We will find a partner who will supply us with the raw materials. We will tell them: You give us the raw materials we do not have at this time and we will give you the workers, equipment, factories. In this manner, the factories will continue producing. [applause]

We are individually evaluating all our activities and industries in order to confront this situation that we call the special period in peace time. Our minds were prepared for a special period in war time should a total blockade occur. Now we have had to prepare and adapt quickly to a special period in peace time. This was accomplished in a situation of a practically double blockade. On the one hand, we have the Yankees with their ferocious pressure to ensure that our country cannot receive even an aspirin; and on the other hand, the disaster of the socialist countries. We must find new markets for many products. We must find sources for the supply of many products. We must find new and daring ideas and abide by these principles; and I repeat, while saving the fatherland, saving the revolution, and saving socialism. [applause]

Just picture this: Despite tremendous problems and all that has happened, we have begun the 1991-92 school year without a single child being left without a school to attend. There is not a single child without a teacher or without his paper and pencil. Even though we do not have that many textbooks, not a single school at our universities has been closed, not a single hospital has been closed, not a single polyclinic has been closed, not a single family doctor's office has been closed. And we will continue to keep all these open because during the war we did not have electricity, but we had doctors. We did not have electricity, but the doctor took care of patients and solved problems. The doctor even performed operations when we did not have electricity. There were times when our doctors in the mountains performed operations with light provided by flashlights. Many lives were saved. Man is what is important. That is why we do not have to close schools. If we do not have electricity, then we will use this or that house. There is no reason for a teacher or an engineer to be without a job.

Furthermore, and what may be even more extraordinary, is the humane way in which the revolution is confronting the special period. The revolution has not left a single worker out on the street, not a single family has been left without food. If there is no raw material to work with, and there are no other jobs, that worker is sent home, but he still receives more than half his wages. That worker receives enough to buy the necessary things. You will not see this in any other country of the world. The first thing those countries do is throw millions of workers out onto the streets and increase prices. Those people who do not have money go hungry. I will not deny that the special period leads us to egalitarianism, and this is not very good; it leads us to excessive egalitarianism; there is, however, no other way; there is no alternative during the special period but to share what we have with everyone. It is the best and fairest solution. It is what the people want. Unfortunately, the bum also receives his share; the common criminal receives his share. [applause] Well, we cannot let them die of hunger, but under the present conditions we can do nothing else. We have hardly touched prices.

During the congress we said that there was a possibility that some prices would be affected. This would not occur to solve the financial problem, but to establish better distribution; to promote the production of some food products in the rural area, to cut down the subsidies paid for some products that are difficult to produce. You live in a rural area. To give you an example, you know how much work goes into picking a sack of string beans. And to give you another example, you know how much work

goes into picking a sack of okra. Huge investments have to be made to maintain those large plantain plantations; they need pipelines, equipment, machines, motors, hoses. Therefore, we must establish certain guidelines.

We have increased the wholesale prices for the farmers, we must make adjustments to the prices of some agricultural products. And I repeat, this is not to make money. We are doing this to regulate the products because we want to produce a variety of products. We have to have malanga, this, and that. But if every time a caballeria of one of those products is planted, money is lost, then it will not be contributing to increasing the production. Food and money is what we have a surplus of at this time. However, we need certain products. That is why some agricultural products are being sold at wholesale prices because this has improved the price the farmer gets paid. But in essence, our country has followed a different policy from the policy followed by other countries. In those other countries, billions are put out on the street during times of crisis; millions are left penniless; millions are left homeless; millions get no help. That is capitalism. Those are the methods capitalism uses to confront the social problems, to confront a crisis. Our country is socialist, truly socialist, truly revolutionary, truly fair, and it has sought other ways to confront the problems, and we are doing it. Our difficulties may increase, but in the end we will win. [applause] In the end we will be more capable. In the end we will be more efficient. In the end we will do things better. In the end we will be absolutely independent. [applause] We will depend on no one. We will not depend on what may happen here or any other place in the world.

That is why I am telling you that we must find ways to better use our resources. We have tamed 100,000 oxen and we are taming 100,000 more. We cannot eat them. Just as we do not eat a tractor, today we cannot eat an ox. The ox is our tractor if we do not have fuel. But we do not only save on the tractors. Unfortunately, we will always have to use a machine to do some things. Some areas are very large and the time to prepare the land is too short. The technology used at the collection centers, for example, centers around machines and combines. In other words, we will always have to use some sort of machine, but our farmers, the camp workers, and the contingents are finding out that an ox can do the work of 10 or 15 men. They are finding out that an ox not only saves fuel, but also increases productivity. They are finding out that much of the work that cannot be done with a tractor, because of the humidity or mud, can be done easily by using oxen. The most incredible part of it all is women working with oxen. I have seen women from Old Havana working with oxen. That shows you what the revolution will do, what patriotism is all about, what the human heart is all about. [applause] I know a woman who is 64 years old who is one of the best at working with oxen. She works for a contingent in Batabano. I visited the area one day and told her that I wanted to see how she works. I wanted to get an idea of the work she was doing. It is not easy. If you are not paying attention, the equipment will move from its tract and cut everything around. Instead of cutting grass it will cut the crop. There is a system to handling the oxen, and our workers have found ways to increase production. Today our agricultural sector has the necessary manpower, our camps have the necessary manpower. Approximately 70 camps have been built. The schools are also contributing, and they can contribute even more. Therefore, there are times when all that manpower is not needed.

Right now the machinery brigades are the ones working. As you know, we had continuous rains throughout the spring. We were getting worried. We kept asking ourselves if we would have enough time to prepare the land to plant by November. We only had a few days to do it. We asked ourselves if we could complete the planting by December. Onion, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes, and other products must be planted in November and December. We cannot wait until January, February, or March to plant those crops. We kept asking ourselves if we would have enough time. Fortunately, for the past eight to 10 days, the rains have stopped in the southern area of the country where all this land is located. The machinery brigade workers, laboring 20, 30, and even 36 hours without stopping, working night and day, have already prepared, even tilled it three times, a vast area of land that has to be planted in November and December. A few days ago the first thing we would ask was: How is the weather? Has it rained in the municipalities in the south? Has it rained in Artemisa, Melena, Batabano, or in Guines? On 5 November, when I came through here, it had been eight days since it had rained. Yesterday we were a bit worried because a northern wind was blowing around here. But it rained in other areas. When in rains in pasture area there is no problem. There was rain in some areas of Artemisa, but there was no rain in the other municipalities. Today as we were driving out to Melena, we kept looking at the cloudy skies. We were wondering: Is it raining in Melena? The three municipalities where we still have land to prepare are Melena, Guines and Nueva Paz. Those were the three municipalities with recent rainfalls. Here is where we must put forth our greatest efforts, and it was great to learn that it did not rain yesterday or the day before yesterday, and that it had not rained today.

If we ever needed a short drought, it is now. Not only to till the land, but to prepare it properly so that it will yield an excellent crop.

You [not further identified] have been calling me for a long time. Can you wait until the event ends? You do not let me talk to the residents. [laughter] All I hear is Fidel, Fidel, Fidel. [laughter] What is your name? What? Yes. Gabriel? Oh, Yaciel. Raciel? How old are you? How old? Eleven. What grade are you in? And your teacher has never taught you that it is bad manners to interrupt a speaker? [laughter] [applause] Please Raciel, do not force me to criticize you in public. Thirty years from now you will be known as Raciel, the man who did not let others speak. Oh, you are the one who spoke the other day? The same one that is calling out Fidel, Fidel, Fidel? Well,

come up here. [laughter] Now that is something else. Great. This is the speaker. Come here. This is the speaker; the friend I have to take with me to the meetings to help me with my speeches. [laughter] He was the one talking and here I was criticizing him. You were the one saying Fidel, Fidel, Fidel? You want to say something? Tell me later. You will summarize what I am saying. Is that clear? So think real quick, with that intelligent mind you have, how you are going to summarize what I said in two minutes.

By the way Raciel, do you remember what it was I was saying? I believe I was talking about the rain.

[Raciel] That is right. The rain in Guines, in...

[Castro, interrupting] In Nueva Paz. I said that if we ever needed a short drought, it would be at this moment. Do not go away. [laughter] We not only need that short drought to till the land, but to prepare it properly so that it will yield an excellent crop. You know that if the land is prepared properly, it will yield more potatoes, more sweet potatoes, and more yuca.

You know how well the plantain crop does with the use of the microjet. The farmers had never seen anything like this. One aerial microjet-sprayed caballeria produces up to 30,000 quintals. One caballeria sprayed with a land microjet yields 20,000 quintals or more, and approximately 10,000 quintals of burro plantain [variety of plantain]. But we have to work hard to achieve this. After it is planted, and after it has grown, we still have to wait a year before we can begin to pick the bunches. But we have hundreds of caballerias already planted and grown with microjet, and we are going to plant hundreds of caballerias more. This is not only going to be done in Havana, but also in Ciego de Avila. Should we be hit by a cyclone, if a little cyclone should decide to come this way, we can still have plantains we need while we rebuild the other plantations. A cyclone would down the plant, but it would not destroy the plantation. We can cut down the plant, fertilize it, and make it grow again. We may lose a few months, but we have to have some solutions should a cyclone hit us. But the plantain crop is yielding excellent results. You should see how much sweet potato and yuca can be grown if the land is prepared properly. This is why this moment is so important. It not only has to do with the amount of land we prepare, but how we prepare it. It even includes killing the weeds. One of these days we are going to have to put an end to weeds, to the Don Carlos [variety of weed]. In the past, these weeds grew and spread. All we have accomplished with the type of equipment we used was spread the weed. Today we have the multiple plow, an invention of one of our outstanding innovators, a Cuban engineer. This multiple plow helps kill the Don Carlos because it does not spread that type of weed. It kills the weed from the very root and dries it. We must keep those weeds from spreading. There are many things that must be improved and we are improving our agriculture. But as I told you earlier, we already have the manpower.

As I said, right now the bulk of the work is falling on the machines. The machines are working day and night. However, soon, within the next few days, we must begin to plant tomatoes, one little plant after another, or with seeds. We must also plant garlic, one clove after another. We must also plant yuca, plant after plant. We must plant sweet potato, sprout after sprout. Six hundred thousand sprouts are planted in one caballeria and these sprouts must be planted properly. We also have to plant potatoes. This is done with the help of machines, but it still is hard work. All this must be planted—some of the things I mentioned, potatoes, tomatoes, some things like carrots, vegetables, garlic, onions, even though we are still fighting to control the onion blight—by 31 December. Other crops will follow. Undoubtedly, we do not have to wait until May. In May those plants will be big. We must study very closely what it is we are going to plant after the tomatoes, after the potatoes. How much each crop yields, how much corn we will get. We have already studied the land that the state, cooperatives, and farmers have, and we know what is going to be planted in each of the 42,000 hectares set aside for various crops. We have taken 850 caballerias, 750 caballerias, previously planted with sugarcane, to the various crops and plantains. We must plant lots of plantains in these months of drought. Plantains do not have to be planted only in November and December. They can also be planted in January, February, March, April, and perhaps that would be better because the rains will many times harm the prepared land. The rains delayed our planting of plantains for this year. We have to make that time up in November, December, January, February, March.

We have to begin digging, laying down the pipes, preparing the land, planting, and then see the crop grow. Plantain does not have to be cleaned. The plantain leaves kill the weeds. We are studying ways to use the leaves to turn it into a fertilizer for the plantain. The plantain that I was telling you about, the type that yields 35,000 quintals per caballeria a year, uses up a lot of fertilizer. We have to find a way to recycle the fertilizer, put it to good use and reuse the leaves. Much technical work is being done with this in Batabano. In Batabano there were dozens of caballerias that could not be planted because of the number of rocks in the area. In Batabano they have gathered the rocks and have dug deep trenches—quite different from the method used in the past century when they gathered rocks to make fences—that are 3 or 3.5 meters deep, and dropped the rocks in there. They then covered the trenches, leaving an approximately one-meter deep trench. This is good for the planting of plantain and other crops. In addition, the dirt they dig out is taken to areas that need to be leveled. Our agricultural land has to be leveled. Otherwise, when the irrigation begins, puddles are formed. When it rains, there are puddles all over the place. That is work to be done.

Here in Melena we are drafting drainage plans. When the July rains fell we saw how the area flooded and how the land flooded. We have two important drainage works on

the drafting table. One is in Nueva Paz. There is much low land in that area. A large enterprise of various crops has been started in Nueva Paz. Here in Melena we have to clean the drains, dig more trenches to improve drainage. Melena is affected by too much rain. We must dig a channel all the way to Govea. Using the Guines-to-Guira channel, we will be able to take water to Govea. The wells in Govea do not have water. Engineers, we have some drainage work to do. We have to level the soil. But we are waging a battle for productivity, to ensure high-yield crops. That is why in the next few months, when all this work has to be done, in addition to the cleaning and the harvesting, we will need our manpower.

This year we are going to be working approximately 28 caballerias of tomato on sticks. It had been a long time since we planted tomatoes on sticks. The enterprises are already cutting the sticks, what do you call those sticks? Stakes. In addition to the tomatoes, we are going to plant a new variety of string beans, a vine-type string bean. It produces even more, and is more immune to blight. It is a safer variety. Much testing will be conducted this year. We are going to need the manpower, but we have the camps, we have the rural schools, we have mobilized workers, and I think that we are in great shape, despite all the problems. We have thousands of oxen at those enterprises. We did not have that last year when we were planting the crops. Very important changes are going to be made in the agricultural sector and you, the residents of Melena del Sur, will play an important role in the production of food during the special period. Do not forget that Melena plays an important role in the food production plan. [applause]

Just as you won the battle against illiteracy, you will win the agricultural battle. [applause] One day we will be able to say that just as you were able to cultivate intelligence, you also cultivated the land with intelligence [applause] and helped the fatherland, helped save the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism. And now before I give you, Raciel, a chance to speak, I will proclaim as always, our glorious slogan of Socialism or death! [crowd shouts "Or death!"] Father' ınd or death, we will win! [crowd shouts "We will win!"]

Barbados

Prime Minister Stands Firm Against Resignation

FL0811142191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1251 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 8, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford and business leaders remained at loggerheads Friday over a new economic austerity programme. Sandiford shrugged off calls by the businessmen, trade unionists and opposition party leaders for his resignation Thursday night, saying that was not "a reasoned approach" to solving the island's economic crisis. Rather, to defuse escalating protests against the government's austerity programme, Sandiford announced steps were being taken to modify the package to ease hardships on the population.

"I think that is what is required at this stage," Sandiford told reporters as he emerged from a lengthy cabinet meeting at Government Headquarters. Sandiford was speaking three hours after the island's main private sector groups issued the latest call for his resignation over what they said was his "mismanagement of the country's economic affairs".

A resolution calling for Sandiford's resignation and expressing no confidence in his leadership was passed by 500 business executives who attended an emergency meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce, the manufacturers association, the employers confederation, the hotel association, the Barbados Agricultural Society and Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd.

Sandiford said there were also "many calls" for his resignation in the run-up to last January's general elections but he noted "the masses of people of this country supported me and my party".

"We do not operate in any society on the basis of whether you like someone or not," he said in reference to the latest resignation call. "Liking someone or not is a matter that is determined at the polls."

The austerity programme has included 2,000 public sector lay-offs, an 8 per cent pay cut for government workers, increased taxes, and wide-ranging price hikes.

Calls for Sandiford's resignation over his economic management increased this week, which began with a general strike on Monday and Tuesday. An estimated 30,000 persons who marched on Monday against the government's support agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), demanded Sandiford's resignation.

On Wednesday, Sir Douglas Lynch, the longest-serving director of the Central Bank, announced his resignation. A letter informing Sandiford of Sir Douglas' decision said he was responsible for the economic crisis.

John Stanley Goddard, spokesman for the private sector organisations, said a shutdown of most of the business sector was possible if Sandiford refused to resign. The private sector resolution also said: "The majority of the people of this country have no confidence in the competence of the prime minister to lead the economic recovery that all Barbadians are willing to work towards and are prepared to ensure hardship in order to achieve."

Haiti

OAS Mission Chief Statement on Agreements

FL1411220091 Port-au-Prince Television Nationale D'Haiti in French 0000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Statements by OAS mission chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo at Hotel Montana on 13 November—recorded]

[Text] The OAS mission to Haiti, governed by OAS Foreign Affairs Ministry resolution MRE/RES of February 1991, visited Port-au-Prince from 10 to 13 November. The OAS delegation acknowledged the Haitian parliament as principal representative in the effort to find a solution to the crisis and stressed that the outcome of negotiations must be guided by both the February 1991 resolution and the 1987 Haitian Constitution. In his response to the welcome speech given by the Senate president, OAS mission chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo made it a point to underline the mission's civilian character.

In addition to conversations with the Haitian Parliamentary Commission, the OAS civilian delegation met with all sectors of the country, including political parties; the Army; nongovernmental organizations; church representatives; executive and judicial authorities; representatives of the industrial, commercial, and manufacturing sector; and grass roots and union organizations, from which the mission has collected statements and recommendations regarding the Haitian crisis.

In a frank and open atmosphere, both parties addressed the Haitian crisis with a willingness to find a solution, taking into account the condition of the Haitian people, provisions of the 1987 Constitution, contents of the February 1991 OAS resolution, mutual guarantees expected by various concerned sectors of the national life in the best interests of democracy in Haiti.

The OAS delegation and the Haitian parliamentary commission agreed on the urgent necessity for all concerned parties to meet under the auspices of the OAS in a neutral venue outside of Haiti and at a time agreed to by both parties for the purpose of finding a solution to the Haitian crisis as soon as possible under the terms of the 1987 Constitution. This solution is strongly desired and expected not only by the parliamentary commission and Haitian people, but also by the international community.

Both sides also agreed to the need for an OAS humanitarian mission to evaluate the effects of the embargo on the entire Haitian population and to make appropriate recommendations on that matter. Both parties also agreed to a simultaneous visit from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to investigate the country's internal situation since the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and to take appropriate measures to defend and protect human rights in Haiti.

Once a solution to the Haitian crisis is found, both parties agree that OAS and state member support be obtained in order to restore international, social, economic, and institutional cooperation. This cooperation should be dynamic and indispensable to the support of the people of Haiti in its effort to strengthen democracy.

Talks between the OAS civilian mission and the Army general staff determined that the final decision on the Haitian crisis was to be in the hands of the civilian authority established by the Constitution and identified as an advisory organ. Both teams agreed on the necessity to respect civil rights and freedoms, especially the right of expression and freedom in compliance with the Haitian laws.

The OAS civilian mission thanks the Haitian parliament for the cordial welcome and the facilities provided the mission during its stay in Port-au-Prince.

OAS Agrees To Resume Negotiations Abroad

FL1511003491 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Report by Philippe Bien-Aime on news conference by OAS mission chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo at the Montana Hotel in Port-au-Prince on 13 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The OAS mission that arrived in Haiti on 10 November to negotiate a solution to the country's crisis with the Haitian parliament agreed on certain points, according to the report by Philippe Bien-Aime.

[Begin Bien-Aime recording] The OAS mission and the Haitian parliamentarians agreed that it is urgent for both sides—those who want Aristide to return to power and those who do not—to negotiate outside the country, under the OAS banner, in order to find a solution to the Haitian crisis. According to Mr. Ramireez Ocampo, both negotiating teams—the OAS and the parliament—agree that the OAS should send a humanitarian mission to Haiti as soon as possible to determine the effects of the embargo on the Haitian masses and to make appropriate recommendations. Ramirez Ocampo added that both teams also have recommended that an inter-American human rights mission be sent to Haiti to inquire into the matter of human rights, both before and after Jean-Bertrand Aristide's overthrow. [passage omitted]

Ramirez Ocampo said that in his meeting with the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], the necessity for respecting civil rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of the press, was agreed to. Asked whether the FADH guaranteed to respect the outcome of negotiations between parliament and Father Aristide's delegation, the president of the OAS delegation stated that during the meeting with General Raoul Cedras and the Army General Staff, the FADH demonstrated its intention to respect and support the Constitution. Ramirez Ocampo said he relies on that. [passage omitted]

Asked about the chances of an OAS decision to deploy multinational military forces to Haiti in the event both

sides fail to agree, Ramirez Ocampo, who preferred to answer personally, said that no military intervention will be accepted in Latin America under any circumstances. [passage omitted]

According to reliable diplomatic sources, the next round of negotiations—to be resumed between those who want Aristide to return to power and those who do not—will take place in Cartagena, Colombia within the next 15 days. Ramirez Ocampo explained that General Raoul Cedras, Army commander in chief, as well as the Army General Staff, pointed out that it is up to the civil authorities to make the final decision, and that the Army only has an advisory role to play.

During their four-day visit to Haiti, the OAS delegation met with many civilian officials, ecclesiastical officials, the Army, former Prime Minister Rene Preval, and Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat. On the OAS delegation's arrival at the airport for their departure from the country, several thousand people were present to demonstrate against the embargo and against the return of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. [end recording]

French Ambassador Declared Persona Non Grata

FL1411224391 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1945 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Haitian Government deplores the fact that no answer has been provided by the French Government in response to its 8 November letter in which the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested that the French Government recall its ambassador to Haiti, Jean-Raphael Dufour.

The Haitian Government attaches the greatest importance to the traditional links that unite the Republic of Haiti and the Republic of France. In order to preserve these ties, the Haitian Government must declare Mr. Dufour persona non grata. It insists that he leave the national territory within 48 hours. This request expires at 2200 GMT on 17 November. After this deadline, the government will not acknowledge Mr. Dufour's diplomatic status, in accordance with Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs states that the measures adopted against the aforementioned for the sake of national protection and integrity, in no way affects the ties of friendship between the Haitian Government and the people of France.

[Date] Port-au-Prince, 14 November 1991

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Affairs

French Embassy Guests Sent to Canadian Embassy

FL1411232291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] According to sources, citizens who were residing at the French Embassy—guests of the embassy as Ambassador Dufour called them—have allegedly been transferred to the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Bodies of Young People Discovered in Decactus

FL1411223091 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 1300 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] According to reliable sources, the bodies of several young people were discovered in the area of Decactus on Route Nationale 1 near Titanyen, about 20 km north of Port-au-Prince. Most of the bodies were clad in jeans. The same source says that the bodies had begun to decompose.

Shootings, Violence Reported in Port-au-Prince

U.S. Embassy Guard Shot

FL1411190591 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 1300 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Last night at approximately 2300, an armed commando entered the home of a U.S. Embassy security guard in the Bizoton 53 area in Bergamot.

A commando shot the embassy security agent. Isaac Remilien was hit by several bullets and is now lying in a pool of blood. Many young people in the area are overcome with panic. According to a reporter who was on the spot last night, there was terror in the area where many gunshots were heard.

Venezuelan Employee's Home Attacked

FL1411194691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Last night in Fontamara [suburb south of Port-au-Prince], specifically in the La Rochelle area, approximately 15 armed men were firing weapons throughout the night. The people living in the neighborhood could not sleep because of heavy weapons gunfire. The gunmen fired upon many homes.

These heavily armed men were trying to enter the home of a Venezuelan Embassy driver. These people left the area around 0400.

More on Violence

FL1511120291 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] An independent Haitian radio station reports that a U.S. Embassy employee, a Haitian, was shot to death by a group of armed men who barged into his home. According to witnesses, the shooting which took place Wednesday night was as bad as the first nights following the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The radio station run by the Catholic Church in Port-au-Prince said the armed men also went into the home of

a Venezuelan Embassy employee but he was not home. U.S. officials have made no official comment as of yet.

Diplomats negotiating with Haiti's military government have expressed optimism that the crisis may be solved soon. Delegate Florence Harrison says the Organization of American States team held frank and friendly discussions with military leaders. He said the talks will be held as early as next week between Haitian lawmakers and representatives of ousted Preside Aristide. The goal of the OAS is the return of Mr. Aristide to power.

* PRI Reorganization in States Under Way

* Clean Elections Emphasized

92CA0021A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Oct 91 p 5

[Report by Jose Urena and, for last four paragraphs, Alberto Espinosa]

[Excerpts] The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is working in Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi "to reverse the mood" of its activists and followers, the secretary general of the National Executive Committee (CEN), Rafael Rodriguez Barrera, reported yesterday.

In a group interview he indicated that the challenge is "to make our victories increasingly more solid, more certain, more credible, and more transparent," because the actions of the opposition "are calling the party's credibility into question."

Rodriguez Barrera was interviewed at PRI headquarters after presiding over an honor guard, on behalf of Luis Donaldo Colosio, at the statue of Plutarco Elias Calles on the 46th anniversary of his death.

He told reporters that after the resignations of Ramon Aguirre in Guanajuato and Fausto Zapata in San Luis Potosi, "reorganizations among personnel and in campaigns" were undertaken.

Their resignations, he said, were due to "a nonelectoral circumstance," and PRI did what it did "precisely to reverse that mood, and we are succeeding in removing that caste, more understandably in the states where this circumstance existed, so that the municipal elections will reconfirm the PRI triumph."

The reporters mentioned to him the 46 people who are running for mayor's offices in Guanajuato under the system called "party unity." He replied that everything was done "with a great deal of openness in the selection of the prospects. As you have witnessed, there was extraordinary openness in Guanajuato."

He then denied that the group protests that forced the resignations of Aguirre and Zapata will set the tone for the seven upcoming local election campaigns that will culminate at the end of the year.

"We feel that the opposition's attitude is incorrect and that the struggle will have to be waged to make the party's triumphs increasingly more solid, more credible, and more transparent." [passage omitted]

PRI Appoints Regional Coordinators in Chihuahua and Durango

Rodolfo Duarte Rivas and Joaquin Contreras Cantu will be responsible for beginning the preparatory work leading up to the nominations that will culminate with the gubernatorial elections in Durango and Chihuahua respectively.

This is the task that was given them by the president of PRI, Luis Donaldo Colosio, after he appointed them regional coordinators in the two states.

The secretary of regional coordination, Carlos Armando Biebrich, administered the oath of office to them in their new posts, emphasizing the many years that the two PRI members have worked for the party.

Guanajuato PRI Will Keep on Winning: Ferro de la Sota

Queretaro, Queretaro, 18 Oct—After being sworn in as the regional delegate of PRI's National Executive Committee, Luis Ferro de la Sota remarked that the Guanajuato PRI would keep on winning elections, in this case the upcoming municipal elections.

"The party has the ability to win in Guanajuato," he indicated; he then had this to say about the discontent manifested by PRI activists in Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi: "Those are situations that have passed; we have come here to deal with matters in Queretaro."

He mentioned the need for clean, clear-cut victories by political parties because "in a democratic country like ours the situation is fluid."

When asked whether the events in Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi have detracted from the work of regional PRI delegates, Ferro de la Sota asserted that political work in PRI is continuous, ongoing, and dedicated.

* Removal of Leaders Noted

92CA0021B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Oct 91 p 10

[Text] AM Special for LA JORNADA, Guanajuato, Guanajuato, 18 Oct—The secretary general of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] in this state, Juan Antonio Araujo Urcelay, reported today that the leaders of his party in the municipalities of Salvatierra, San Luis de la Paz, Valle de Santiago, Cortazar, and Yuriria would be removed from their posts "inasmuch as they themselves are the ones who have caused the unrest and disunity."

After the disturbances on Tuesday, when a group of dissident PRI members set fire to part of the facilities of the PRI municipal committee in Yuriria, Araujo Urcelay warned that "there will be changes, because the same people who protested have left the posts of president and secretary general vacant." He went on to say that in order to prevent further problems the State Steering Committee (CDE) would appoint interim leaders in Salvatierra, San Luis de la Paz, Valle de Santiago, and Cortazar.

Unrest and disunity among PRI activists have also become evident in the latter municipalities since the elections on 18 August, at which PRI lost the governorship when Ramon Aguirre decided to decline the post.

As for the difficulties of uniting before the municipal elections this December, Araujo Urcelay indicated that "the coordinator of the CEN [National Executive Committee] in

Guanajuato, Humberto Mayans Canabal, has told PRI members very clearly that "in view of the threat from an organized National Action Party these shows of insubordination place us at a disadvantage and leave much to be desired from the standpoint of unity."

He added in this connection that the candidates selected to run in the local elections on 1 December "have an obligation to conduct campaigns aimed at bringing the protesters together and explaining to them that now is not the time for factions but rather to think about the party's future."

Belize

Territorial Dispute Events Explained To Public

FL0811191891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Nov 8, CANA—A series of public meetings in which political leaders from both parties in Belize have been jointly explaining the recent developments in the territorial dispute with Guatemala has ended here. The Bi-partisan National Commission made up of Prime Minister George Price, opposition leader Manuel Esquivel and Foreign Affairs Minister Said Musa have met with thousands of people at the meetings held at nine centres throughout the country.

Heated debate has surrounded the proposed Maritime Areas Bill which is being seen as a concession to Guatemala by limiting Belize's territorial sea to three miles in the southern border area. Guatemala has softened its century-old claim to Belize territory apparently with assurances of access to the Caribbean Sea. Most of the public's fears have centred around the rights of Belizean fishermen in the sea between the three mile limit and the "median line" between the two countries, and it now looks as though the bill will be amended before it goes for a second reading.

At the end of Wednesday night's final meeting in the town of Dangriga, Musa said he believed the consultations had been useful for raising the public's concerns. "They are to do with whether we are giving up and allowing Guatemala to come into our territory and I think once you make it clear that they cannot come beyond the median line under this bill and once you make sure that this bill is tightened up to ensure that all our Belizean fishing rights and other rights are protected, I believe we can agree on amendments between the government and the opposition that will satisfy the Belizean people," Musa said. He added that more consultations would follow the passing of the bill.

Esquivel, announced that his United Democratic Party will be meeting immediately to formulate amendments to the bill. He said the amendments would be aimed at ensuring that the Guatemalans would not enjoy rights on the Belize side of the median line. "Both sides have agreed that there will be amendments. So the next step is for the two sides to sit down and agree to the wording of those amendments. I think without the consultation perhaps many things might have been missed. So I am quite confident that the bill that will emerge as amended will be a far better bill than what it started out to be," he said.

During Wednesday's meeting the government and opposition members again stated that if in future negotiations any agreement is reached to arrive at a final settlement on the territorial dispute with Guatemala it would have to be approved by the Belizean people in a referendum.

A bilateral commission is expected to be set up soon between the two countries to negotiate a final settlement and develop agreements for economic, political and cultural development.

Costa Rica

Calderon Vows Not To Change Economic Policies

PA0911172991 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] President Calderon stated today that the resignation of Finance Minister Thelmo Varga and the recent cabinet changes do not signal a change in his administration's economic adjustment policies.

In a speech delivered over a national radio and television network, Calderon defended the economic adjustments and actions taken during his first 18 months in office but admitted that he is now pausing to redefine actions in some areas.

Calderon said: "Cabinet changes do not signal a change of direction or a change in our economic policies."

He said that he has only made two changes to a group of 30 economic measures and noted that this does not imply a variation in his economic plans.

The resignation of Thelmo Vargas over the weekend represents a new cabinet crisis, a cabinet that already lost five of its members. Calderon named Presidency Minister Rodolfo Mendez Mata as the new finance minister.

Rolando Lacle—a deputy from the ruling party— was appointed Presidency minister. Calderon also asked Legislative Assembly President Miguel Angel Rodriguez to join his economic team.

On 5 November Calderon met with congressional members of the opposition National Liberation Party in an effort to find support for some of his economic proposals, which must be approved by the Legislative Assembly.

In his speech, Calderon said that his government made "a giant effort" to face "problems inherited from the previous administration," such as the deficit, which he claims his government reduced from 7.5 percent in 1990 to 1.5 percent in 1991.

He also stated that his administration "drastically" reduced the imbalance in the balance of payments by reducing imports and increasing exports.

Although he did not give any figures, Calderon said that as a result of his government's adjustment policies—which led to large increases in the price of staples, fuel, and public services—Costa Rica has "the largest monetary reserves of the past 10 years."

Calderon reported a decrease in monetary devaluation figures and claimed that the country is witnessing a "boom" in agricultural, industrial, and tourist investments.

He maintained that modifications in some of his economic proposals, the university budget and the suspension of a plan calling for forced dismissals in the public sector, "does not mean a change in the overall economic program."

Calderon stated: "My government guarantees that we will continue to strictly fulfill our agreement with the IMF." He also noted that the policies adopted by his government in the past few months have been instrumental in negotiating that agreement.

According to Calderon, Costa Rica is headed toward a "sustained period of economic growth with social justice." He added that it is also on its way to becoming "part of the world economy."

Calderon urged the opposition to join a "patriotic crusade" against privileges such as exaggerated pensions, favorable court rulings, and other demands by organized groups that contribute to increasing public spending.

He also asked the opposition to approve a package of eight bills in the Legislative Assembly. These bills include pensions; tax exemptions; economic democratization; and the sale of two state-owned enterprises.

Calderon also defended his government's policy of opening the Costa Rican economy to free trade agreements with the United States, Mexico, and other countries. Calderon said that in the first quarter of 1992 Costa Rica will begin a process of tariff reduction that would lead to a maximum of 20 percent for almost all of the country's imports.

Interest in U.S. Free Trade Agreement Analyzed

PA0811211391 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 31 Oct 91 p 14A

[Editorial: "Toward Free Trade"]

[Text] President Calderon's visit to Washington served to reaffirm Costa Rica's interest in reaching a free trade agreement with the United States within the framework of U.S. President Bush's Initiative for the Americas. Recently, Foreign Minister Roberto Rojas and the U.S. Commerce Department's representative held talks during which they discussed this issue and agreed on steps to be taken in the next few months.

The commercial opening is one of the key aspects on which the country's economic policy for the next few years will be based. Despite problems in other sectors of the economy, Costa Rica cannot remain passive in the face of the important commercial revolution taking place throughout the world. The creation of a free trade zone by Mexico, Canada, and the United States; the agreement signed between Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico at the Guadalajara Summit; the efforts made to reactivate the Andean Pact; and the creation of the Common Market of the South by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay constitute examples of the changes that have taken place on the continent recently.

The new commercial relations will not consist only of tariff reductions and open borders. The process is more ambitious. It includes norms for effectively taking advantage of the opportunities that an expanded economic framework offers. It is necessary to define clear rules to guarantee trademarks, to check unfair commercial practices, and to eliminate nontariff barriers that bureaucratically impede access to markets.

Free trade measures are positive but they must not be unilaterally adopted. Negotiations are necessary so that the opening may work both ways. Concerning agricultural products, free trade is very important for Costa Rica because of the natural advantages we have for this type of product. This is why the country must carefully follow and actively participate in the current GATT talks—the Uruguay Round—because this issue is being intensively discussed there. As it was said at the San Jose VII meeting, the opening of the European market is of great importance for our potential development.

The trade opening—the expansion of the market—will contribute to a more dynamic and sustained economic development. The examples provided by Mexico and Chile, two countries that have embarked on intense trade opening processes, are a lesson to be remembered: It is believed that the Mexican economy will grow more than four points this year and investments have increased by more than 8 percent. Chile's growth will be more than 5 percent and foreign investors have invested more than $1.5 billion in the first 8 months of the year.

Costa Rica could benefit very much from free trade. The possibility of joining the free trade arrangement established between Mexico and the United States, something that has been analyzed by President Calderon and Minister Rojas, is attractive because it would avoid a large process of bilateral negotiations. While talks take place, it would be good for the country to make changes in the legislature to permit the signing of this type of agreement. Otherwise, when the time comes, we may not be prepared.

Reports on Establishing Ties With Cuba Denied

PA1411022891 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has not considered establishing relations of any kind with Fidel Castro's Cuban regime, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said, discounting reports to that effect. No talks took place with any Cuban Government officials to establish diplomatic or consular relations, the chief diplomat added.

Regarding efforts that could be made before international organizations in favor of Cuba, Niehaus said that Costa Rica wishes for a bloodless and peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

Niehaus stated that Cuban participation in a democratic America is important. Costa Rica is convinced that Cuba's participation in the democratic American community is as important as making the transition in accorance with international law and without human bloodshed, he said.

This is the essence of Costa Rican foreign policy, Minister Niehaus added, and if anything can be done within that framework, we will be more than ready to do so. He noted, however, that it is not true that his government is even considering establishing diplomatic or consular relations with Castro's regime.

Government Grants Asylum to Three Cuban Artists

PA1411042191 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2352 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] San Jose, 13 Nov (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government granted political asylum on 13 November to three members of the Spanish Dance Group of Cuba, who deserted on 11 November in this capital, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said today.

The deserters are guitar player Jorge Luis Perez Mederos; ballerina Nuria Cid; and musician Elvis Lantru, who arrived in San Jose the week before last with Alicia Alonso and the Cuban National Ballet.

Niehaus justified his government's decision to grant refuge to the three Cubans because "the Cuban Marxist-Leninist political system undermines democracy, pluralism, and the people's freedoms."

There were other desertions a few weeks ago, but the Foreign Ministry did not grant them political asylum, deciding that those people did not request it or were not politically persecuted.

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire

PA1411214791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command in Mexico City on 14 November]

[Text] Whereas we are at the final stage of the negotiations and wish to generate an appropriate climate so that a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict is reached this year:

1. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] General Command has decided:

a) To unilaterally suspend its offensive and urban actions, as well as its economic sabotage in all of the national territory as of 0000 on 16 November 1991.

b) We will undertake all efforts to extend that detente until the signing of a final cease-fire.

c) This decision will be only modified in case of substantial changes that could affect the progress of the negotiations as defined under the New York Agreements or those that aim to modify the balance of forces.

2. The FMLN General Command decided the above to:

a) Make all Salvadorans feel they are close to peace and that it is possible to begin the reconstruction process through a national joint effort.

b) Isolate minority extremist sectors opposed to peace that wish to void the agreements and stop the progress of the negotiations.

c) Start a unilateral truce to help the military forces from both sides, which are now engaged in offensive operations and actions, so a final cease-fire can be expedited.

d) Create a national political climate favorable to reaching agreements on topics that are still pending to expedite the end of the armed conflict.

e) Unite the efforts by all sectors that want to change the country by supporting negotiations and opposing the prolongation of the war.

f) Accelerate the negotiations so the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace and the United Nations will be able to undertake their functions to supervise, verify, and control compliance with the agreements.

g) Convey to the inte[illegible]tional community that our decision to finalize the n[illegible]tiations by adopting political agreements that will allo[illegible] final cease-fire is firm and irreversible.

3. The FMLN General Command is convinced that the agreements reached so far and the total process of the negotiations are supported by the majority of Salvadorans and the international community, which is why the time has come to guarantee compliance with these agreements and the successful development of the negotiations until its culmination to achieve a democratic and just El Salvador.

[Issued] 14 November 1991, Mexico

[Signed] Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Joaquin Villalobos, Francisco Jovel, Eduardo Sancho, and Jorge Shafik Handal.

Cristiani Holds News Conference on Peace Process

PA1411234191 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1638 GMT 14 Nov 91

[News Conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters at the Presidency in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...in Mexico City. We did not want to speak before that happened. What happened is that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] just announced in Mexico City that effective at 0000 on 16 November, it has decided to establish a unilateral cease-fire, halting all offensives, sabotage activities, and urban operations throughout the country. The cease-fire will continue throughout the negotiations process, which will culminate with a definitive cease-fire. We want to note that we view this FMLN position as a sign of goodwill to achieve a definitive cease-fire in the shortest time possible.

We hope that peace in El Salvador will begin on 16 November, when armed activities will cease in our country. We want to consider the full meaning of what the FMLN stated this morning. We will analyze the situation on 16 November to take unilateral measures that correspond with the FMLN announcement so that we can begin to provide the climate needed for the peace process so that the violence will end as soon as possible. We hope this will give a breather to Salvadorans on their path to a normal life. We expect that this sign of goodwill by the FMLN will also result in a will to conclude discussion of the topics pending on the abridged agenda as soon as possible. This agenda has been discussed in recent days and important advances were made. We hope these advances will continue at an even faster pace. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr. Ernesto Rivas of Newscast of the Day program.

[Rivas] We would like to know, with this turn in the negotiations process, is it possible to learn about [words indistinct] and how much more do you expect to talk with the FMLN to reach an agreement in this country?

[Cristiani] We have been giving priority to the Armed Forces issues. Of 14 topics up for discussion, 12 have been completed. We hope to begin discussion of the remaining two and expect to begin discussions of other topics on the abridged agenda [words indistinct]. I feel that today's announcement presents a much more real possibility that this topic will be discussed [words indistinct]. There will be a four-day recess in the negotiations process. This recess will begin on 17 November to analyze the topics that, in an overall manner, have been added to those already discussed on the agenda [words indistinct]. The meetings will resume on 22 November. We feel that a continued effort is under way. We hope that all topics will be discussed during what is left of November and perhaps the first two weeks of December. We should not discount the goodwill [words indistinct] document or announcement of this morning that states that this is being done to provide the necessary climate so that speedier progress can be made in the negotiations so that they can conclude before the end of this year. We hope this will be the case. I do not want to say that there are no difficult topics for discussion ahead. There are still difficult topics to be discussed. However, I feel that if there is goodwill, we can overcome any problems.

[Moderator] Cesar Cedeno of LA PRENSA

[Cedeno] [Words indistinct] that the government will analyze corresponding unilateral measures [words inditistinct] the Army, how will you [words indistinct] situation?

[Cristiani] This is a unilateral measure taken by the FMLN. It was not the result of a bilateral agreement.

Our current position is to watch the FMLN's position as of 16 November. We will see what corresponding unilateral measures can be taken in this nonviolent situation. These measures have not yet been taken. Our goal is to arrive at a definitive cease-fire gradually, with a retroactive effect, and as soon as possible. This is what we are seeking.

[Moderator] Melba Jimenez of the Many News newscast.

[Jimenez] Has the government abandoned the idea of leaving the negotiations? Is the FMLN announcement on this due to UN pressure because of the Salvadoran Government's reports?

[Cristiani] We have not abandoned the idea. We said that a dangerous situation was being created in the process because there was considerable contradiction between the FMLN's stand in the process and its continuing operations in the country. We said that such a contradiction did not make a suitable climate for negotiations. If the climate changes after 16 November, the need for us to take such a measure disappears. This is what counts. But I would not want to specify why, how, and when. We desire to take it as a token of the FMLN's goodwill to create the proper climate to end the process as soon as possible and establish a definitive cease-fire. They also said in their communique that the intention is to establish a cease-fire as soon as possible. The important thing is that they have made a decision that we regard as proper. I do not think it worthwhile to consider the reasons for such a decision.

[Moderator] Jose Luis Magana of The Newscast.

[Magana] Mr. President, over the past few days there have been a series of labor movements in the country that have led to the dismissal of the board of directors of AGEMHA [General Association of Finance Ministry Employees]. They had demanded a salary increase and, of course, a bonus increase. The finance minister told them that this definitely would not be possible. My question is, how can you explain that at this point in time a salary and bonus increase are being denied while

the Legislative Assembly deputies are planning to raise their salaries by (?10,000) colones.

[Cristiani] In the first place, I believe the finance minister has explained this decision. There has been a chain of events that has generated instability, particularly at the Finance Ministry. We must remember that this is not an isolated incident but a situation that has unfolded gradually. I do not believe this is just a labor issue, but also a political issue. From a political standpoint, I hope the FMLN will exert its influence to end these instability- generating actions.

I have said that if the state had the funds it would be more than pleased to give them to the employees to win their political support. If you want to view this simply, it would be very pleasant. However, the truth is that such an action would be irresponsible because we would be creating a very dangerous situation that would promote inflation. We would not only be deceiving government employees but the entire country. When a government gives what it does not have, the result is inflation. If we are to raise salaries we would have to (?inscribe) the funds because they do not exist, and what we would be giving with one hand we would be taking back through taxes that would affect everyone, [words indistinct] inflation, especially low-income sectors. Therefore, I believe this would not be a responsible thing to do and I do not want to be irresponsible.

The state is unable to meet the employees' demands. Nevertheless, I would like to stress that it is not that we have done nothing; we have stabilized salaries at four ministries which employ—because they are the largest—approximately 75 percent of the government's employees. Not only have we balanced salaries, but individuals have also received increases of up to 500 colones. We have been working on resolving problems. One problem was the gradual deterioration of the state's salary structure because of past political problems. Through the stabilization of salaries, we improved on the arrangement whereby every duty is paid on a comparative basis with other duties. A great many employees have benefitted from this.

What is worrisome—this is why I said this situation is politically motivated—is that one of the ministries that underwent salary stabilization was the Finance Ministry, whose employees know perfectly well that this year they all received increases of no less than 150 colones when the salaries were stabilized.

What happens is that this is symptomatic; each time there is a dialogue, AGEMHA goes on strike and starts promoting internal instability. Looking back, we recall other situations. For example, during the offensive, the AGEMHA president requested leave from 1 to 10 November. It was a very strange coincidence that the offensive began on 11 November, when some individuals simply disappeared for two or three months and then reappeared later.

The finance minister has not been intransigent. There are several members of AGEMHA's board of directors whom the finance minister reinstated in their positions at the beginning of our adminsitration to show his willingness to talk. However, these people are not interested in a dialogue, but in destabilization. We believe that there is a limit to what can be permitted. We have tried to talk to and discuss matters with them on many occasions, but they maintain an intransigent position.

Today the Legislative Assembly will be doing something that I hope the opposition will not simply criticize. Before criticizing, they should look at their own past actions. For the first time in history, public employees will have—once it is approved by the assembly—a Christmas bonus as a mandatory right. Currently, a Christmas bonus for public employees is not mandatory as it is in the private sector. However, the draft bill sent to the assembly by the Finance Ministry was to institutionalize the Christmas bonus for public employees once and for all. This will prevent a situation similar to the one under the Christian Democratic Party's administration when one year the Christmas bonus was less than the previous year. On the contrary, the proposed law will establish a timetable for periodic wage increases until the government's minimum wage is reached. Although there is no minimum wage in the government, the average is around 1,200 colones. That is what we have been trying to do.

However, the state cannot solve the problem from one year to the next, because when we talk about an additional Christmas bonus of 100 colones, we are talking about millions of colones that must be added to the budget. They are demanding 125 percent of their salaries; this would represent approximately one-half trillion colones, which we do not have. That is a very intransigent position, which cannot be permitted. Unfortunately, there are times when we must make a decision, because there is no alternative. Although we have held talks, discussions, and have accepted a number of demands made by AGEMHA, they have maintained a totally radical position in order to create instability. This cannot go on.

[Moderator] Zambrano, of EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Zambrano] Does the government maintain its position of dismissing the members of AGEMHA's board of directors?

[Cristinai] Yes. The finance minister's decision was a government decision, not an isolated decision made by the minister. We believe there were many warnings and signals; many efforts were made. However, they have maintained their radical positions and threatened Finance Ministry personnel who did not support the strike; Finance Ministry personnel have received threats from persons telling them they know where they meet with their friends and will find them there. Such threats can be seen as terrorist actions. This cannot continue. The country shoud not have to tolerate such situations.

The FMLN itself has said that violence and radical positions must stop in our country. We believe that those organizations should act accordingly.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct], of LA PRENSA GRAFICA.

[Reporter] Mr. President, I recently read that the United Nations recently requested the reduction of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] peace corps. I would like to know the current situation of those peace forces for the verification of the disarmament process. Also, will the FMLN demobilize once a cease-fire agreement is reached?

[Cristiani] No one has requested a reduction of ONUCA forces during this period of extended mandate. It was reduced last year at the end of the Nicaraguan conflict. This year I understand that the mandate was extended for another period. We also understand that the group that will verify compliance with the agreements in our country is Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] and not ONUCA.

[Moderator] Mario Rosenthal of NEWS GAZETTE.

[Rosenthal] [Words indistinct] many [words indistinct] calls from people [words indistinct] conservative groups saying that the government has always been flexible and has given great concessions to the guerillas, but the newspaper says the contrary. Now you are talking about a unilateral truce announced by the FMLN. Very well, the FMLN will immediately respond: that is what the FMLN wants. [words indistinct] Therefore, they are accomplishing something with the truce. I have not been able to answer the questions they have asked me. I want to [words indistinct] the government's weakness as a result of the New York agreements. The first thing they say is that [words indistinct] toward the Armed Forces. The other Army has been present there with (?Colonel Vargas). They say a large sector of the large enterprises [words indistinct] in the economy and the [passage indistinct]. He said national dignity was traded for a plate of lentils [words indistinct]. He said the purging of the Armed Forces [passage indistinct]. I believe and I trust that [words indistinct]. I simply trust in what they are doing. I would like you to explain the government's position and I would like to summarize it in a single question. My question is this: Can there be a cease-fire without the FMLN having to lay down its weapons?

[Cristiani] I could make a general comment. The FMLN announcement of a unilateral cease-fire does not constitute an armed peace because the government has made no commitment. There is no reason for us to act, because this is a unilateral position.

I have in mind the proposal they made two days ago. That was really the reason behind this news conference in which the government would give its official position regarding the truce proposal. A problem emerged with the proposal because the FMLN informally wanted the separation of forces; with a separation, the FMLN would have access to what they call the areas under their control without the presence of the Armed Forces to maintain order and security in the area. As for this situation, the government has not made any commitments and, as you said before, we are going to continue to observe how this FMLN initiative unfolds. Based on how the initiative unfolds, we would take the appropriate unilateral measures. We would end the acts of violence and we would be approaching a definitive cease-fire; however, we maintain that the final goal is a definitive cease-fire.

Now, there can be a cease-fire without the FMLN having to turn in its weapons, but the FMLN cannot return to civilian life without turning over its weapons. The Geneva Agreement clearly states that the return to civilian life must be made within the framework of the law. Article 7 of the Constitution does not allow for armed groups except for the Armed Forces. That is why they cannot be a legal group as long as they do not turn over their weapons. We cannot accept the return to civilian life of the FMLN as long as there is no disarmament. That position is clear. It is a matter of reading and understanding what has been written. The problem with this—and I do not want this to be a criticism because we know that many of the things that have taken place in the process are unknown to the public—is that expressions such as those made by Mr. Salgado only reflect an unawareness of what the peace process really is. It is the result of trying to reach conclusions from part of the information and not from all the information about what is going on. At no time have we turned over the institutions of our country to anyone. Shares of power will not be turned over to anyone following the peace process. We are seeking changes that can benefit the nation and strengthen the democratic institutionos of our country, not those that will only benefit an individual or a group.

For this [words indistinct] that has to do with the economic and social aspects. We have not asked anyone for permission to develop our economic and social programs. We presented those programs to the Salvadoran people during the electoral campaign, and all we have done is comply with our commitments made during the campaign because the people are supporting us. It is very obvious that no particular sector is being favored or being given special privileges. Furthermore, the first thing we did was eliminate all fiscal privileges for all sectors. Inasmuch as the people sometimes do not know about everything that is being done, I can understand why some people have doubts. Sometimes, the information is scarce, and therefore some people reach the wrong conclusions. However, in the long run the benefits will be evident, and that is what the government seeks.

[Hurtado] My name is Rene Hurtado, of Radio Cadena YSKL. Mr. President: In the first place, you have referred to the unilateral cease-fire by the FMLN. However, what will happen when the Army has to conduct

operations in areas controlled by the FMLN? Is there some sort of an agreement under the table, or is there an agreement...

[Cristiani, interrupting] There is no such agreement by the government.

[Hurtado] On the other hand, I would like to be more direct regarding a question by my friend, Mr. Rosenthal. Mr. President, are you being pressured by those government sectors that are hindering an agreement with the FMLN?

[Cristiani] In the first place, the government does not have any commitment to modify anything at all. This is a unilateral initiative of the FMLN that we interpret as a gesture of goodwill so that we can conclude the process. As events continue to develop, we will then adopt—but without any commitment—unilateral measures that could favor the [words indistinct], thus preventing any violence. However, there is no commitment. We will analyze the situation as it develops. We cannot say anything beforehand.

In the second place, there is no group that is exerting any pressure on us to do anything. The government realizes that the vast majority of Salvadorans want peace. When they elected a government, they were asking that government to work for the sake of peace. That is what we have understood and are trying to do.

In the strictly political aspect, we have received full support from the political party to which we belong, and that is very important for us. There will be some people who do not agree with that or do not like it. This will always happen. One is never perfect and we do mistakes. However, there will always be differences of opinion on that. The one thing we are interested in is achieving peace. This is our goal. We believe we are doing this without giving up anything.

For example, when the constitutional reforms were being discussed, it was said there was a lot of pressure. You might recall the strong campaign that was waged by the media. Nonetheless, the constitutional reforms were approved, and nobody is afraid now that he may have lost something. Some said we were going to give away the entire country.

With the exception of a discussion over the National Council of Settlements [Consejo Nacional de la Adjudicatura], nobody says anything about the reforms. I believe it is natural for people to be concerned. That is why we say we will wait for the evaluation at the end, when everything has been settled.

[Ramirez] My name is Hector Florencio Ramirez, of YSUCA. I would like to ask you if you are analyzing what measures will be adopted as a result of the proposal by the guerrillas? [words indistinct], and are you going to grant some concessions?

[Cristiani] I would rather not talk about hypothetical cases and I would like to maintain....[pauses] I do not want this to be misinterpreted because it should only be interpreted in one way. This is a unilateral measure that was adopted by the FMLN; all we will do is assume that this is a sign of goodwill and maintain a positive attitude. We may take appropriate unilateral measures to create the necessary atmosphere to achieve a definite cease-fire, but it all depends on the situation. Our goal is nothing other than the achievement of a definite cease-fire.

[Moderator] The next question will be asked by Arturo Alvarez of LA NACION in Costa Rica.

[Alvarez] Mr. President, what impact would an eventual end to the Salvadoran conflict have on the rest of Central America?

[Cristiani] I think you should ask the other presidents. The effect is obviously the consolidation of political stability in the region. It would also allow for the possibility of further strengthening the democratic processes in our countries because it would eliminate the obstacles caused by violence. I think it would make it possibile to work on much more productive topics for the sake of our people and their development. This would lead to a much more feasible and dynamic process in those areas. Instead of wasting time talking about eliminating bad things, we would be working on generating good things.

[Moderator] Daniel Albert of UPI.

[Albert, in English] [Words indistinct] and what this means for your economic policy in general?

[Cristiani] In Spanish or English?

[Albert] English.

[Moderator] Excuse me, Mr. President, the Spanish questions are (?not over).

[Cristiani] He speaks Spanish well.

[Moderator] Douglas Day of AP. Will you speak in Spanish or English?

[Day] Spanish. Mr. President, I believe we would be somewhat naive if we failed to recognize the presence of a quid pro quo in a negotiation. We are not talking about the distant future; we are talking about a situation that may arise [words indistinct] in two days. Mr. Cristiani, as commander of the Armed Forces, would you actually be prepared to adopt measures to, for example, order the return of elite battalions—which are now operating in Sonsonate, Morazan, and parts of Usulutan where a guerrilla presence has been reported—to their barracks? I know you do not want to discuss hypothetical cases but we are talking about something that may happen within two days. Using the elite battalions as an example, what specific measures would you be willing to take?

[Cristiani] As you said, I think your question deals with a hypothetical case and it is difficult to hypothesize

because one might adopt a position that could be misinterpreted in the future. We do not want that because we would not want a situation like this to distort things, cause problems, or mean the beginning of the end. I can only say that we would be willing to do whatever is necessary based on developments, because it is a unilateral situation. There has been no agreement and there will be no verification, so we would have to see how things are going before we can adopt specific measures. There are many possibilities about what can be done but it all depends on the process. We cannot predict what measures can or cannot be taken because things could change. However, if this moves along as expected.... [changes thought] That is why I said we will consider the FMLN's announcement as a gesture of goodwill to really end the conflict. We will analyze the situation from that perspective. That is why we say we may adopt unilateral measures according to our goal, which is to achieve a definite cease-fire.

[Moderator] The next question is from Iris Martinez [words indistinct].

[Martinez] Mr. President, you have the experience of other unilateral cease-fires decreed by the two parties in the past; however, they lasted only a short time because there were no previous agreements. You said that there are no agreements but there is a possibility that the United Nations will be a mediator so that a cease-fire may become a reality without involving a verification [words indistinct] definite cease-fire. At least it represents the first step, just as the cease-fire proposal represents a first step.

[Cristiani] I think that an important aspect in which the United Nations can mediate now is in drafting the final cease-fire procedures. I think the situation can be improved if the two things are merged, that is if we merge the unilateral cease-fire with the certainty of a final cease-fire. I think that would be a great help and would improve the situation. Then we could say that the end of the conflict began on 16 December 1991. In light of the fact that it is a unilateral position, I do not think that the United Nations can mediate, because it can only mediate to seek an agreement, and no agreement has been reached. This involves a unilateral position on the part of the FMLN, and the government reserves the right to adopt unilateral positions as well.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the immediate unilateral cease-fire?

[Cristiani] I feel that compliance begins with the announcement by the FMLN in its communique that it is going to stop its offensive operations, its attacks on urban areas, and its acts of sabotage. If we do not see these actions from the FMLN, this means they are keeping their word.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]....

[Cristiani interrupting] Pardon me, I just want to add this. We can make decisions that would make it easier to maintain this situation, which could be unilateral actions on our part.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct].

[Reporter] I have two questions, Mr. President. Can you foresee the impact that the FMLN announcement will have on the [words indistinct] on the peace process, which may serve to allay fears? Also, could you make an approximate estimate of how much time would be necessary to assess [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I will attempt to make an analysis, but I am not saying that everybody will make the same one. Lately we have felt that a large number of sectors are condemming and complaining about the FMLN's inconsistent stance. The FMLN says that peace could come even before Christmas, which is less than one month away. On the other hand, these sectors find it hard to justify the deaths of more civilians, the destruction of job centers, and the sabotage of economic structures.

If the FMLN in a gesture of goodwill says it is stopping all of that, I would think the reaction should be positive, as long as we regard this as a positive signal and give it a chance to work. Let me repeat, the FMLN said this morning that the cease-fire will be in effect without a time limitation for the duration of the negotiation process, and so we would be merging this unilateral declaration with the final cease-fire. That means that 16 November, or maybe the day before, could very well be the day that the conflict ends in El Salvador. In think that in this respect, a reaction could come.

The complaint against the FMLN went like this: How can they talk of peace and [words indistinct], why kill more civilians if this conflict is about to conclude in one month? That created a negative atmosphere for the peace process. As for the other question, I think this is not a matter of deadlines. Starting at 0000, on 16 November, we can begin to analyze what may happen. We ought not establish deadlines, or say when, how, or what measures the government can take. The analysis starts the moment that the FMLN proposal of a unilateral cease-fire takes hold.

[Moderator] The next question is by Christa McNeill of THE MIAMI HERALD.... [pauses] It is Omar Yazid of [name indistinct].

[Yazid] If a cease-fire agreement is signed, it would create great economic expectations among the population because it could lead to a postwar situation. Therefore, will the government implement a new economic program, following consultations with political groups, or will it continue with the same one?

[Cristiani] I would rather not talk in general terms and answer the question with yes or no. First of all, the government has developed what we call a national reconstruction plan and the Planning Ministry has already

scheduled meetings with various political, labor, and business groups to discuss the plan and listen to their reactions and ideas. The idea is to improve the plan as much as possible because it is designed as an opportunity to achieve economic development while the production groups truly start to operate in a dynamic and efficient way; they will no longer have certain obstacles. What we intend to do, and we have discussed this, is to hold a meeting with the labor and business sectors to review certain measures. The idea is to establish equitable compensations through adjustment programs.

The other goal is to decide what measures can be adopted to eliminate the dispute between the labor and business sectors. Our goal is to implement measures that offer a better relationship between these two sectors, which together comprise the production sector. However, we will definitely not present the economic program for a discussion.

Even the FMLN has accepted the fact that the government outlined its economic platform. The people voted for the current government, which has every right to implement the economic and social platform that it outlined during the political campaign. Therefore, the government is not about to discuss the economic program with various groups. This does not mean that certain topics may not be corrected because, as I said before, no one is perfect and we could make a mistake. We are willing to make corrections whenever we are convinced that the situation is truly bad.

I am sure that if we agree that the difficult part of the stabilization process has been overcome and if we agree that it is necessary to put an end to violence and develop the production sector, we will certainly see the results of what was done. That is why we said in the beginning that we had two alternatives as a government, because we had a sick patient: the country's economy and social situation. The government had two options: The easiest thing, politically speaking was to keep on giving morphine to the patient to alleviate his pain and keep him happy, awake, and without pain. However, the disease would continue to progress and the patient would eventually die. The patient might die happy [Cristiani laughs] but death is never a pleasant thing.

The other option was to operate on the patient and definitely cure the disease. We opted for this and we now have a postoperative trauma, meaning the trauma we have withstood. We have opened our economy to reality and now everyone must realize that the state is exhausted; it can no longer give things away. This is the time to rebuild the country so that we can distribute something. What we had was poverty and that can hardly be distributed. [passage omitted]

Army Rules Out Temporary Bilateral Truce

PA1511044391 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The Salvadoran Army has announced in Mexico City that a definitive cease-fire after 12 years of civil war is very close.

In a news conference, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, ruled out a bilateral truce following an announcement by the guerrillas that they are unilaterally suspending all urban actions and sabotage actions against the economy as of 16 November.

According to Vargas, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Army's proposal is a serious and well-balanced proposal that represents a promise for the Salvadoran people and a contribution for the negotiations.

He added that the Army will not commit itself to a bilateral truce because military logic will determine how the events develop. Promises are one thing and actions are another, and there is always a factor of aggression that determines the actions of the Armed Forces, Col. Vargas concluded.

Insurgents Issue Communique Denying Offensive

PA1511043891 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Communique issued by the Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Cerro de Guazapa on 12 November]

[Text] 1. Over the past few weeks we have watched the Armed Forces increase and intensify their operations in areas under our control. They have been using all kinds of weapons with the clear intention of crushing us militarily and repressing the civilian population in the vicinity of Cerro de Guazapa. Added to this is a repressive campaign against humanitarian, popular, labor, and religious organizations, because it is no secret that persecution and intimidation against these organizations has escalated.

The bodies of civilians murdered in the death-squad style are frequently found. Threats were leveled against institutions and personalities who must ensure the observation of human rights by the ruling Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party and by the clandestine organizations that originate from the ruling party and the Armed Forces.

2. All of the above is silenced by government propaganda, which seeks to confuse the Salvadoran people with its allegations of an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] offensive that only exists in

the terrified minds of an Army that sees itself condemned—because of the success of the negotiations—to a reduction in size and a purge, against the will of the high command.

3. The FMLN decreed a unilateral truce for the New York meeting; it later proposed a joint yearlong truce, and more recently in Mexico it proposed an informal cease-fire to create an adequate atmosphere for the negotiations. The government and Armed Forces have responded to all of these proposals with a categorical no.

4. It is absurd to believe that to prove our resolve for peace we must allow ourselves to be militarily crushed on our war front. We are not suicidal. We have the right to defend our territory and to continue being the force that will guarantee the fundamental changes that our country requires in order to establish a democracy superior to any that we may have known to date in our fatherland.

5. We believe that the scandal the government is raising is an effort to create a political cushion to justify its withdrawal in response to the many pressures against the negotiations that are underway between the Armed Forces, the government, and the ruling party.

6. Due to all of the above, the FMLN's actions are fair and legitimate. If the Salvadoran Armed Forces stubbornly insist on destroying us militarily, we will demand that the Salvadoran Government and its Armed Forces suspend this dirty propaganda war and truly manifest themselves at the negotiating table. They must show in practice their resolve to end or tone down the war as UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has stated, and once and for all they must respect our people's hopes for peace.

7. Finally, we urge all the political parties and all the social and humanitarian organizations to speak out against these feats. Arena is attempting to play with the Salvadoran people's future. The national consensus should prevail over the arrogance of the enemies of peace.

[signed] Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Cerro de Guazapa sector
[dated] Tuesday, 12 November 1991

Reportage on 1-11 Nov FMLN-Army Clashes

PA1211184691

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of battle reports on fighting between Salvadoran Army troops and guerrillas from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, from 1-11 November.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 2 November carries a three-minute report on the results of the fighting in October. According to Radio Venceremos, the guerrillas inflicted 531 casualties on Army troops in October. The rebel station adds: "the figure includes three officers, four noncommissioned officers, and nine prisoners of war." As for the amount of war materiel seized, Venceremos lists: "11 rifles, two M-60 machine guns, five M-72 LAWS, over 8,800 cartridges of various calibers, a Motorola communications radio, 20 different kinds of grenades, 25 knapsacks, and six sets of military equipment." Venceremos adds that two military trucks were destroyed in October.

The rebel station reports that 128 power structures were destroyed and two small power stations were damaged. In addition, three coffee mills were sabotaged and the National Telecommunications Administration installations in Cuscatancingo were destroyed. Two farms, two bridges, and seven manzanas of cotton were sabotaged. The station concludes its report by saying that six of "the best sons of the fatherland" were killed in action and six were wounded.

The station continues with a three-minute report on more fighting between the FMLN and the Army. National Army for Democracy, END, forces attacked a Pantera Battalion position in the vicinity of the penitentiary of Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department, on 1 November. "As a result of the attack, six casualties were inflicted on the enemy," Venceremos claims. Another report states that FMLN forces inflicted 15 casualties on Military Detachment No. 5 during a maneuver carried out on the road from Suchitoto to San Martin on 1 November. In addition, END snipers inflicted one casualty on the National Guard in an attack on Army positions in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, at 0715 on 1 November, according to the station. Another report states that Atlacatl Battalion troops sustained five casualties after clashing with END forces on 1 November in Los Planes del Zapotal, Portillo, (Copinol), Loma (El Sirin), and El Aceituno, all located in Las Vueltas and San Jose Las Flores Jurisdictions, Chalatenango Department.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 5 November carries three minutes of reports on more fighting between FMLN guerrillas and Salvadoran Army troops. According to Venceremos, the 1st Infantry Brigade sustained 11 casualties in an END ambush on the road between Suchitoto and San Martin, Cuscatlan Department. No date was given for this attack. Another report adds that the 4th Infantry Brigade sustained seven casualties after clashing on 2 November with END forces in Candelero and Pelon Hills, Chalatenango Department. The station reports that two guerrillas were killed and adds that Atlacatl Battalion sustained two casualties after clashing with END units in Las Calles, Chalatenango Department, at 0945 on 4 November.

According to another report, END units clashed with special forces from the 3d Infantry Brigade in Nuevo Eden de San Juan, northern San Miguel Department, on 3 November. As a result, "two casualties were inflicted on the Army troops," the station reports.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 5 November carries a three-minute report that at 1100 on 4 November, END units attacked the 5th Company of the Conchagua Battalion in El Portillo canton, Nueva Esparta, La Union Department. As a result, "two soldiers were killed and three were wounded," according to the rebel station.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 5 November carries a one-minute report saying that 10 people were killed and 21 were wounded in different parts of the country during the weekend of 2 to 3 November. The television station reports that, according to the Salvadoran Army, eight guerrillas and two soldiers were killed in clashes that took place in Cuscatlan, Cabanas, San Miguel, and Chalatenango Departments. In addition, FMLN urban commando units attacked Army positions in southern San Salvador at 0600 on 4 November where at least two soldiers were wounded, the station reports.

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 6 November on page 2 reports on Army-guerrilla clashes in Santiago de Maria on 5 November where, according to the newspaper, FMLN guerrillas sustained 30 casualties and the 6th Infantry Brigade troops sustained five.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 6 November carries a three-minute report that END forces attacked Soriano Battalion soldiers guarding the Mecafe Coffee Mill on 5 November. As a result, "three casualties were inflicted on the enemy."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 6 November carries seven minutes of reports on more fighting between FMLN rebels and Salvadoran Army troops. The report begins by saying that at 0400 on 5 November, END units took control of the towns of Rosario, Cuscatlan, El Calvario, San Martincito, and El Tablon. At 1000, END units clashed with a company from Military Detachment No. 5. As a result, "seven casualties were inflicted on the troops," the radio reports. The rebels claim to have seized an M-16 rifle, an M-14 rifle, a PRC-77 radio, two equipments, three knapsacks, and a 9-mm pistol.

A report from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front says that on 5 November, END columns clashed with Oromontique Battalion troops in the town of Santiago de Maria. As a result, "eight soldiers were killed and 12 were wounded." In addition, "the following materiel was seized: "an M-16 rifle, 10 knapsacks, equipment, and abundant ammunition," the station reports.

Another report from the same broadcast states that END units attacked troops from Military Detachment No. 4 in Osicala, Morazan Department, at 0600 on 5 November. As a result, "eight casualties were inflicted," the station claims.

According to the same report, three other casualties were inflicted on Morazan Battalion in Las Mesas Hill, Cacaopera Jurisdiction, Morazan Department, on 4 November. As a result, "three casualties were inflicted on the enemy." The station adds that two more casualties were inflicted on Arce Battalion troops in Perquin Hill, Morazan Department, at 0700 on 4 November.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 6 November carries a three-minute report saying that guerrillas temporarily occupied the town of Apopa, north of San Salvador, where heavy clashes left at least seven wounded among soldiers and rescue workers on 5 November.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 7 November carries a three-minute report saying that four civilians were wounded in a dynamite attack on the offices of Civic-Military Action located in Atlacatl Neighborhood in San Salvador on 6 November. Another one-minute report states that FMLN guerrillas ambushed a 2d Brigade convoy in Coatepeque, Santa Ana Department, on 6 November. As a result, "a soldier was killed and three others were wounded." In addition a member of the National Guard was wounded when repelling an FMLN attack on the town of Villa Victoria in Cabanas Department, the station reports.

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1559 GMT on 7 November carries a 300-word report that, according to the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, a soldier and six FMLN guerrillas were killed 6 November in a clash in Lislique, La Union Department. The report adds that six rebels and one soldier were killed and 14 guerrillas and two soldiers were wounded 6 November during a clash in Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department. Another soldier lost his life and five others were wounded by FMLN rebels during clashes that took place near the city of San Vicente on 6 November.

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 7 November on page 1 carries a 275-word report that, according to the commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, four FMLN guerrillas were killed and 10 were wounded during clashes in Milingo canton, Suchitoto on 6 November. In this clash a soldier was killed and two others were wounded, according to the newspaper.

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 8 November on page 2 carries a 250-word report that, according to a report from the 1st Infantry Brigade, a guerrilla was killed and four others were wounded in a place called El Morro, Suchitoto Jurisdiction. No date was given for this clash.

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1745 GMT on 10 November carries a 175-word report that at least three soldiers were wounded 10 November during a guerrilla attack on 4th Infantry Brigade positions in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 10 November reports that on 9 November the END began an operation called: "For Peace and Justice, Let us Destroy Militarism." Venceremos reports that at 0200 on 9 November END units attacked a Cuscatlan

Battalion company guarding the San Luis Coffee Mill in San Miguel Department and as a result, "12 casualties were inflicted, including 2d Sergeant Mario German Ramirez Rodriguez."

Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 1807 GMT on 11 November carries a 200-word report that, according to the Salvadoran rebels, the Army sustained 64 casualties during the weekend of 9 to 10 November. Meanwhile, Coprefa reports "one soldier was killed and another was wounded in clashes with guerrillas in the Departments of Chalatenango, Cabanas, and Morazan." No dates were given for the clashes.

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA on 11 November on page 3 carries a 150-word report that the Ramon Belloso Battalion confiscated the following materiel from the FMLN: an RPG-7 machine gun, an M-16 rifle, various booby trap mines, knapsacks, uniforms, and ammunition during an operation that took place in La Bolsa Hamlet, San Jose Guayabal. In addition, 11 40-mm grenades were found by Bracamonte Battalion troops in an underground FMLN cache in Los Ramirez canton, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department.

Bishop Cites Report Blaming Army for Massacre

PA1411151791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1722 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador Gregorio Rosa Chavez said on 10 November that a report issued by a humanitarian organization claims that members of the Salvadoran Army killed 794 peasants in hamlets in the country's eastern region in December 1981.

The Archbishop's Legal Assistance Office has been investigating the massacre for two years. Rosa Chavez said the 81-page report, which was delivered this week to Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, will be published soon.

Rosa Chavez said that "there is overwhelming evidence" that 794 peasants, including women, men, and children, were killed by "soldiers of the Atlacatl Battalion," between 11 and 13 December 1981.

Although the killing is known as the "El Mozote massacre," Rosa Chavez noted that the peasants were murdered in the hamlets of El Mozote, Rancho Villa, and Jocote Amarillo, in Guacamaya jurisdiction, and in La Joya and Cerro Pando, in the area of Meanguera, in eastern Morazan Department.

He added that after the Legal Assistance Office completed its investigations, charges were formally filed at the Second District Court in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan. The charges were accepted by the judge, who already has interrogated several survivors, some of them witnesses, and others victims.

Rosa Chavez said the judge asked President Alfredo Cristiani, as commanding general of the Armed Forces, to inform the court what military unit carried out the military operations in El Mozote and surrounding areas on the dates of the slaughter.

Rosa Chavez said one of the most "difficult and important" phases in the investigation of this case will be the site inspection and the exhumation of the victims' remains, which were found in common graves.

He added that the Legal Assistance Office is seeking assistance from international experts in forensic anthropology but has not received a reply to this request.

"Based on overwhelming evidence, members of the Atlacatl Battalion are responsible for the deaths, but at the same time other equally condemnable actions committed by members of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) must be reviewed," Chavez Mena stressed.

He added that those incidents "are part of the truth and demand courage, seriousness, and true patriotism to guarantee justice, which will be a great task for our frail judicial system."

"Only when justice is done will the fatherland have the right to ask the offended families to forget the past, to forgive the murderers, and to open their hearts to reconciliation," Rosa Chavez stressed, in clear reference to the peace negotiations, as a result of which an amnesty could be decreed.

Rosa Chavez said that cases such as the "El Mozote massacre" should make the nation reflect on the challenges that will need to be faced during the post-war period, which should not only be limited to rebuilding the infrastructure and economic revitalization but to a real reconciliation of the Salvadoran family.

Ministry Employees Strike Over Salary Issues

PA1411161491 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 12 Nov 91 p 24

[Text] At least 22,000 employees of the Public Works Ministry are striking to demand that the government increase their Christmas bonuses by 125 percent and their salaries by 500 colones. The government has not yet met the demands.

Danilo Paredes, leader of the Association of Public Works Ministry Workers, said today that 22 groups support the strike, which is being promoted jointly with the employees of the Finance Ministry and the workers of the Municipal Mayors' Offices.

According to the strikers, the work stoppages will continue until the government meets the salary demands. Therefore, the country could be confronted with a serious labor crisis at a nationwide level.

Paredes stated that they will not give up until they have achieved the 125-percent increase in their Christmas

bonuses, even though they have been threatened with massive dismissals and generalized salary reductions.

On 14 November, the employees of both ministries will go to the Legislative Assembly to hear the deputies' answer to their salary proposal. The answer will determine what actions they will take next.

Guatemala

Vice President Denies Reduction of Arsenal, Army

PA1411143891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0947 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Nov (NOTIMEX)— Guatemalan Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero has denied that his country's Army is going to reduce its weapons' supplies and troops as long as the armed conflict that has been raging for 31 years continues.

"The government will not be ungrateful or stupid and turn its back on the Army that has defended national sovereignty," the official said, commenting on the proposal by the Security Commission of Central America and Panama for countries of the area to reduce their arsenals and troops.

Espina Salguero said that democracy prevails in Guatemala, "and this is due in great part to the defense work done by the Guatemalan Army."

Colonel Homero Garcia, spokesman for the Guatemalan Armed Forces, told NOTIMEX that the Army currently has 40,000 troops that safeguard the country's 108,000 square km.

He proposed the Central American countries form a bloc to defend their territories so the superpowers will never again use the isthmus to settle their differences by using small armed groups.

According to the Mutual Support Group [GAM], Guatemala is the site of an armed conflict that has killed 100,000 persons and left 200,000 orphans, 45,000 widows, and 125 clandestine cemeteries where approximately 45,000 persons are buried. The GAM is an organization that defends human rights.

Honduras

Resolution With El Salvador To Facilitate Trade

PA1011233691 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1715 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Resolution signed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa on 8 November]

[Text] It is the will of the Central American presidents to provide additional momentum to the Central American integration process, as stated in the Declarations of Antigua, Punta Arenas, and San Salvador.

Joining with this integrationist spirit, Honduras has decided to participate in this process. Therefore, as a first step, it decided to conclude, along with Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, a multilateral temporary free trade agreement, which was signed in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador on 15 July 1991.

Recognizing the need to continue the efforts to accomplish additional progress in the commercial relations between both countries;

Reaffirming the necessity to support expeditious payment mechanisms to facilitate commercial exchange, as well as to promote a greater flow of capital between both countries, and stimulate investments in productive activities in each state;

Convinced that customs equilibrium and order is fundamental to exchange between both countries because it provides reciprocal protection against third country claims as an intermediate stage toward achieving a free trade zone between both nations;

Both countries hereby resolve;

1. To instruct the economic ministers of both countries to present, within a 90-day period, proposals aimed at establishing a total free zone between El Salvador and Honduras. The proposals will consider the principle of duality and prepare a limited list of products that will be excluded from free trade. Both countries will agree on the excluded products. Afterwards, the economic union between both countries will be sought.

2. To instruct the appropriate authorities to implement as soon as possible the agreements that have been signed regarding the program for the dismantling of trade obstacles.

3. To instruct the economic ministers of both countries to negotiate a common tariff agreement, within a 60-day period, in accordance with previously established tariff agreements and to set a date for its implementation, considering the legal procedures needed for approval in each country.

4. To instruct the central banks of each country to implement payment mechanisms as soon as possible according to Article 3 of the Tela Agreement, after it has been updated with the Central American Payment System, to accelerate reciprocal trade.

5. To instruct the appropriate authorities to draft and to submit a proposal, within a 90-day period, aimed at promoting a greater movement of capital and greater private investment in productive activities.

6. To accomplish the two previous goals, we recommend that the central banks of each country evaluate the steps and measures necessary to allow the legally established

financial institutions in each country to establish branches or agencies in any of the two countries.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 8 November 1991
[Signed] Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of Honduras
[Signed] Alfredo Cristiani Burkard, president of El Salvador

Nicaragua

Government Minister Installs Disarmament Brigade

PA1511042691 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado today installed the National Disarmament Brigade in Matagalpa City. The brigade comprises 330 men, who will form three different groups and will operate throughout the country. These groups are made up of former contras, recontras, recompas, National Police agents, and servicemen. Their regulation weapons will be G-3 rifles. The men will begin working on 18 November. Members of the demobilized Nicaraguan Resistence from the Northern and Central Fronts, led by Commander "Leonel," are also joining the brigade.

Assembly Commission Closes Ortega Immunity Case

PA1411163291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] A special legislative commission chaired by Deputy Luis Sanchez on 10 November declared that the case dealing with Daniel Ortega's parliamentary immunity is closed. The Liberal Constitutionalist Party had requested that former President Daniel Ortega's parliamentary immunity be lifted, but Ortega relinquished his immunity before the commission acted.

The commission met on 10 November and decided to close the case because there are no provisions in either the National Assembly statutes or the Immunity Law to investigate a legislator to deprive him of his immunity after he has already relinquished it.

Episcopal Conference Comments on Latest Actions

PA1411161691 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 13 Nov 91

["Text" of communique issued by the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua in Managua on 11 November; read by announcer]

[Text] The bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua, very concerned over the terrorist actions that have taken place in Managua and other cities in the past few days, want to address all Catholics and other people of goodwill—in Nicaragua and abroad—and announce the following:

1. The bishops clearly express their rejection and condemnation of these actions, which are an embarrassment to all honorable Nicaraguans and which show that the perpetrators are enemies of peace and life.

2. The bishops regret the huge property damage inflicted on the country, which was already poor and heavily looted to begin with.

3. The bishops especially express their concern over the escalation of violence, which began with speeches and publications and have reached the stage of physical aggression. All of this may be a bad omen of greater and irreparable evil.

4. The destruction of offices and family homes is completely unjustifiable. The bishops condemn the looting of state property and especially the destruction of some media such as Radio Corporacion of Managua and Radio Dario of Leon as well as the attack on Radio Mundial of Managua. This is a barbaric manner of expressing one's tolerance of the viewpoints of others and, therefore, an outrageous manner of hurting freedom of speech.

5. The bishops believe the time has come for Nicaragua to be taken seriously and to be defended, not based on agreements signed behind the people's backs, but by enforcing the law and punishing those who violate it. Authority must be exercised, not shamefully cornered or shielded behind words, of which Nicaraguans are getting more tired every day and which are perceived as merely easy optimism.

6. Believers must seriously meditate over these incidents by remembering the word of God and the teachings of the church. They must contribute and cooperate in all those things aimed at building true peace, justice, respect for the rights of citizens, and especially true love. Offer your prayers and acts of penitence to the Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of the Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception, the feast of whom we are getting ready to celebrate, so that once and for all this Nicaraguan land—irrigated by so much blood, tears, and sweat, especially of the poor—can produce the olives of true peace and reconciliation.

[Issued] Managua, 11 November 1991
[Signed] Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua
Monsignor Bosco Vivas Robelo, Bishop of Leon and president of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua

Independent Radios May Form Defense Committees

PA1411144491 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] In light of the serious attacks on freedom of expression evidenced by the destruction of Radio Corporacion, Radio Minuto, and Radio Dario and the machine-gunning of Radio Mundial and Radio San Cristobal, the independent radio stations are contemplating forming a defense committee.

Observers say that the government and the private sector are feeding the monster that is devouring the independent stations. Informers believe that Radio Ya, which led the barbaric operation on 9 November, is favored by the state for its advertisements.

A stream of the state's meager publicity funds have been set aside to strengthen Daniel Ortega's radio station so he can purchase new, more powerful equipment and stage a stronger attack on the incipient democratic system.

Observers point out that TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] is among Radio Ya's most frequent patrons. TELCOR Director Pablo Vigil completely ignores the independent stations.

Radio Corporacion has been destroyed, confirming its martyr station status; meanwhile, the station that led the barbaric assault is currently waging an attack on Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Recontras, Recompas Clash 6 Nov in Matagalpa

PA1411144091 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Matagalpa—Government Ministry sources in Matagalpa reported that on 6 November at approximately 1400 the rebel groups known as "recontras" and "recompas" clashed again, this time in La Quijada region, 20 km north of Pancasan, in Matagalpa Department. The clash lasted approximately 30 or 40 minutes.

Our source reports that the recontras were led by Enoc and the recompas by Santos but he did not know if either side had suffered casualties.

A group of 15 demobilized former Nicaraguan Resistance members, almost concurrently with the incidents in La Quijada, allegedly searched homes on the La Gloria farm near Muy Muy for weapons, but to no avail. They withdrew peacefully from the area.

Panama

Government Will Favor Cuban Democracy at UN

PA1411161291 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Panama's position at the United Nations will favor democracy in Cuba but this should not be interpreted as support for the Castro regime, Foreign Minister Julio Linares said 13 November. Linares blamed Panamanians as being partly to blame for the international campaign against Panama.

[Begin recording] [Linares] In Cuba there is a fundamental problem: the absence of democracy. Panama has made the reestablishment of democracy its goal in all countries, especially countries on the American Continent. With this goal in mind we have the Bethancourt Doctrine.

I believe the steps Panama is taking across the continent to reinforce democracy are recognized. The case of Haiti is an example. In Cuba's case, Panama's position will be in favor of Cuban democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] But is Panama essentially in favor of lifting the blockade against Cuba?

[Linares] First of all, there will be a debate at the United Nations. A resolution will be debated at the United Nations, and I believe it would not be correct for me to tell the press, in advance, what our ambassador will do at the United Nations. That must not happen. I am not going to speculate about anything concerning what he will or will not say or about what he will or will not do. What I can tell you is that the Panamanian position will favor democracy in Cuba. [end recording]

The foreign minister said there are sectors in the United States that insist on discrediting Panama.

[Begin Linares recording] The sad thing about it is that Panamanians are contributing to this smear campaign. To publish, for example, news articles with six-column headlines that discredit and tarnish Panama's image means that we Panamanians are contributing to this international discredit. These news items do not even have an authentic source because they have no...[pauses] they do not say who is making the accusations. Then we complain about the bad image Panama has abroad. [end recording]

Argentina

Senate Passes 'Controversial' Labor Reform Bill

PY1411202291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Senate yesterday definitely passed the controversial law for employment reform which has been under parliamentary debate for the past 21 months.

The law will whitewash the social security status of companies agreeing to normalize under-the-cover wage payments, and sets a severance pay ceiling for employee dismissals of up to three months per year of service.

Under the law, the government will also create an unemployment insurance fund and set the amount of dole payments by decree within 60 days.

The initiative, passed in October by the Lower House, was approved with the votes of the Justicialist, San Juan Bloquista and Neuquen Popular Movement blocs, as well as Senator Juan Aguirre Lanari from the Corrientes Liberal Party. The Radicals voted against the bill, which was drafted two years ago by Labour Minister Rodolfo Diaz (labour secretary at the time under former Minister Jorge Triaca).

The law aims at flexibilizing the work force and normalizing the situation of 2.5 million workers devoid of social welfare benefits, who consequently do not pay the corresponding welfare and pension contributions. It also hopes to provide jobs for some 800,000 unemployed and over a million underemployed workers in urban areas.

Under the labour flexibilization scheme, companies may hire up to 30 percent of their work force on six to 18-month contracts. Six to 24-month contracts will be allowed to get new enterprises off the ground while youths under 25 years of age may be hired on training contracts of between four months and two years.

Severance pay for dismissed workers cannot exceed three months per year of work or drop below one month for each year.

Earlier in yesterday's session, the Senate approved and handed over to the Lower House a draft law which deputies passed near midnight reducing the special retirement pay of government officials, legislators, judges, teachers and members of the foreign service to 70 percent of their original values, which the To obtain the special benefits, members of the three branches of power must be either 60 years old, have 30 years seniority or 20 years' worth of pension contributions. [sentence as published] National legislators and City Council members must have held their seats for four years while those in the other branches of government need only two years in office.

Tentative Privatization Schedule Announced

PY1411153891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1128 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (NA)—Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal, the Defense Ministry planning under secretary, reported that the Defense Ministry has released a tentative timetable to privatize companies within the spectrum of the Defense Ministry; but, military production companies will be subject to the professional reorganization of the Armed Forces.

The timetable was submitted to the executive branch by Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez and carried to the United States by President Carlos Menem to publicize it among U.S. entrepreneurs.

Olazabal believes that the pertinent privatization bill could be approved in November.

The Defense Ministry planning under secretary made it clear that the timetable could be implemented within the scheduled periods, and even within a shorter period, "but this depends on the contracts with the investment banks that have not yet been signed with the international organizations." It also depends, he added, on the review of the plan for military industries.

Olazabal said that each company will be privatized as appropriate. It is thus necessary to conduct a case by case study bearing in mind the products that they manufacture.

The timetable released yesterday is as follows:

Zapla Blast Furnaces: appraisal between November and December 1991; sales strategy between December 1991 and May 1992.

Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association]: entrepreneurial reorganization between November and December 1991; privatization probe and strategy between December 1991 and January 1992; privatization implementation between January and May 1992.

Bahia Blanca Petrochemical Company: strategy analysis and preparation of specifications between November 1991 and January 1992; privatization between December 1991 and May 1992.

General Mosconi Petrochemical Company: strategy analysis and preparation of specifications between November 1991 and February 1992; commercial strategy and privatization between February and May 1992.

Rio Tercero Petrochemical Company: privatization between November and December 1991.

Carboquimica Argentina: privatization between November and December 1991.

AFNE [State Shipyards and Naval Factories] Shipyards: preparation of specifications and privatization between January and May 1992.

Cordoba Materiel Area: corporation founding between November 1991 and January 1992; privatization between January and May 1992.

Sulphuric Acid Company: property appraisal and preparation of specifications between January and March 1992; privatization between March and May 1992.

FM [Military Industries] "ECA" [expansion unknown]: property appraisal and preparation of specifications between December 1991 and March 1992; privatization between February and May 1992.

Synthetic Toluene Company: appraisal and preparation of specifications between January and March 1992; privatization between February and May 1992.

Former Meteor Company: privatization in November 1991.

The breakdown of privatized companies and companies whose privatization is underway is as follows:

Contracted: Polisur [expansion unknown]; Vinylic Monomers; Petropol [expansion unknown]; and Induclor [expansion unknown].

Awarded: Tanador [North Basin Shipyards] and Forja [expansion unknown].

Preallocation commission: Rio Tercero Petrochemical Company; Carboquimica [expansion unknown]; and the former Meteor plant.

Health, Social Action Minister To Resign Post

PY1511012491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (NA)—Health and Social Action Minister Avelino Porto announced this evening that he will submit his resignation as soon as President Carlos Menem returns from the United States.

In the communique, Porto suggested the possibility of running as a candidate for national senator. Government authorities stated, however, that the Justicialist Party will not propose Porto for this post. [words indistinct] Julio Cesar Paraoz, former federal interventor in Tucuman Province, seems to be the strongest candidate to replace Porto at the Health and Social Action Ministry.

At 2015 Porto disclosed a brief communique announcing that he would continue in his job for as long as the chief of state "deems it necessary."

Porto added: "Because I believe and trust in Menem's administration, I am willing to assume any responsibility he, the president, wishes to give me in the future."

This is the text of the communique:

1. I will tender my resignation as Health and Social Action minister as soon as President Carlos Menem returns from the United States. I will continue to do my job for as long as he deems it necessary.

2. I have enjoyed the president's confidence throughout this year and have shared with the other government officials the achievements of which the people have approved.

3. I am willing to assume any responsibilities President Menem wishes to give me in the future because I believe and trust in his administration.

4. I have deeply experienced the happiness of being able to help and to solve some of the peoples' problems and to contribute to transforming the Republic.

Bolivia

Armed Forces Not To Join Coca Eradication

PY1511115091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The Bolivian Armed Forces will not participate in the eradication of coca crops in El Chapare. At least this year we will not participate in this task, Defense Minister Rear Admiral Alberto Saenz Klinsky said. He also requested the cooperation of coca farmers in the successful conclusion of the eradication task.

[Begin Saenz Klinsky recording] We hope that the peasants understand the problem and that they will cooperate in eradicating the required number of hectares, if not in December, by the beginning of next year. We are all aware of the terrible scourge that drug trafficking is. We must eradicate the coca crops. It has even been proven that coca crops ecologically damage the soil and if their cultivation continues it will destroy our environment. [end recording]

Interior Minister Comments

PY1411131891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The interior minister stated that the government does not intend to use the forces of order to eradicate coca plantations in El Chapare region. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno said that when the U.S. ambassador agreed to cooperate with the eradication of coca with his machete in his hand, he was speaking figuratively. He added that although the eradication process is a bit behind schedule, it will be completed without violence. He said:

[Begin recording] As far as we are concerned, we will not enter with either the police force or the Umopar [Rural Area Police Patrol], much less with the Army. This program is being administered well by the Agriculture Ministry, even though it is a bit behind schedule. The Agriculture Ministry is directly responsible for it. [end recording]

Farming Cooperation Agreement Signed With Israel

PY1511120691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Bolivia and the Israeli Government signed an important operative cooperation agreement to improve agricultural output.

Seeking to improve the standard of living ,through the use of modern farming technology to produce highly profitable crops, of those who live on the high plateau, the Bolivian and Israeli Governments signed an agreement to install an agricultural center in Cayutaca, Los Andes Province, La Paz Department. An expert will be sent this month by the Israeli Government to coordinate with Cordepaz [Development Corporation of La Paz] experts in agricultural planning. The agreement includes research projects; transference of technology; and improvements to this agricultural center.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde thanked the Israeli Government and said that the Bolivian Government and people, especially the small farmers and peasants, are grateful. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Technical, Scientific Accord Renewed With U.S.

PY1511125891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Brazil renewed a technical and scientific cooperation agreement with the United States for five more years.

The original technical and scientific cooperation agreement was signed in 1984. In May 1991 it was extended for six months, and now Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton signed a new agreement that will be in force until 1996. Rezek said this agreement is somewhat different from the previous one. He said:

[Begin recording] Cooperation will increase in some aspects. The agreement will also include intellectual property rights, that is, patent rights on any new product. [end recording]

U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton said the agreement was important because scientists from the two countries will work together, exchanging scientific and technological information.

Agreement To Help Rebuild Iranian Cities Signed

PY1411174591 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Brazil will help to reconstruct 12 Iranian cities.

National Housing Secretary Ramon Arnus Filho returned recently from Iran where he signed technical and cooperation agreements between the two countries.

The agreements provide for the participation of Brazilian firms in the construction of houses and housing complexes in Iran.

Arnus said that this initiative will be executed by joint ventures, with Iranian firms being responsible for obtaining the resources while the Brazilian firms will provide the technology.

[Begin Arnus recording] We have found a way for a consortium of Brazilian and Iranian firms to form an international enterprise which will obtain the resources on the market. With an Iranian Government guarantee, 100,000 housing units will be built using Brazilian products, technology, and services. The first project is for 10,000 units. I think the deal will work. [end recording]

Arnus said that there is the possibility that these firms might also invest at a later date in housing complexes in Brazil.

Northeast Iron, Steel Company Auctioned

PY1511020491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Northeast Iron and Steel Company [Cosinor] was sold for over 10 billion cruzeiros. Cosinor was auctioned today at the Rio de Janeiro Stock Market.

The auction to privatize Cosinor barely lasted 15 minutes. This is the fourth company to be privatized by Collor's government, the second in the iron and steel industry. The final offer was 551 cruzeiros a share, that is, 13.79 percent over the minimum of 484.19 cruzeiros set by the government. All total, Cosinor was privatized for 10.4 billion cruzeiros. The majority of the shares are now owned by Gerdau Corporation, which already produces more than 10 percent of the country's total steel output. Gerdau already owns four other mills in the Northeast.

Cosinor, which has 20 percent of the steel market in the northeast, is located in Pernambuco State. It was created 52 years ago to manufacture spare parts for distilleries. The mill is built on 80 hectares in an area 30 km from Recife. The firm can produce 200,000 tonnes of steel plate a year, but last year it only produced 60,000 tonnes.

The firm has been in a state of crisis for the past three years during which sales dropped by 40 percent. Two areas are practically closed: the foundry and the [word indistinct]. Since the beginning of the crisis, the firm was forced to dismiss half of its personnel. Presently, it only employs 650 workers

Chile

Aylwin To Attend Rio Group Meeting in Colombia

PY1411140291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0009 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Santiago, 11 Nov (EFE)—The Foreign Ministry reported today, 11 November, that President Patricio Aylwin will participate in the meeting of chiefs of state of

the Rio Group to be held between 30 November and 3 December 1991 in Cartagena, Colombia.

Regional matters will be discussed during the meeting, among them the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group with those of the EEC in Santiago, Chile, in April 1992.

The Cartagena "summit" will begin on Thursday, 28 November, with the first working session between the coordinators and top level officials.

Chile will be represented by the Foreign Ministry director general, and later by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and President Patricio Aylwin.

The countries that comprise the Rio Group are Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; Chile; Ecuador; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; and Venezuela.

Soviet Ambassador Concludes Diplomatic Mission

PY1511122091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Pavlov concluded his mission in Chile. He is also retiring today from his country's foreign service, ending a diplomatic career that spans 37 years.

The Chilean Government officially bade farewell to Pavlov during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry Red Hall.

The diplomat emphasized the good level of relations between the two countries, adding that he was grateful for the kindness and friendship that he received during his stay in Chile, especially during the coup d'etat in his country.

The ambassador confirmed that on 17 November he will travel to Miami where he accepted an offer from a U.S. university to lecture on Soviet-U.S. ties.

Pavlov resigned because the Soviet Union expects ambassadors to resign when they turn 60 years old to allow the renewal of personnel.

Hungarian President To Seek Stronger Ties

PY1511024491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Hungarian President Arpad Goncz' visit to Chile on 4-7 December has political and economic implications according to Hungarian Ambassador Gyula Nemeth who warned, however, that Goncz' visit will not yield spectacular results in the short term.

This will be the first visit to Chile by a Hungarian president. Last year Hungary sold Chile 60 different products totaling $2.5 million, while Chile sold Hungary very few products totaling approximately $7 million. It is hoped that President Goncz' visit will contribute to increasing this low bilateral trade and to establishing contacts at a high level.

There is a Chilean-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce in Santiago headed by Nicolas Lederer, who has resided in Chile for 47 years.

Ambassador Nemeth explained that his government has begun to transform its centralized economy into a free market economy.

During a news conference, Hungarian Commercial Attache Andras Silaye disclosed important data on the situation in his country. He said that during Goncz' visit, Hungary and Chile will discuss all fields in which bilateral relations can be tightened. He will also discuss that, as Chile did, his government has begun to transform its centralized economy into a free market one. For this purpose, 20 percent of the enterprises—representing almost one-third of the gross domestic product [GDP]—have been privatized and a huge legislative process has been started.

The commercial attache added that the process is not free of difficulties, among them, a foreign debt amounting to $20 billion; a 40 percent annual inflation rate, although it is the lowest in the former socialist Europe; a 6 percent drop in the GDP; and an approximately 5 percent unemployment rate that will be double in 1992 according to his predictions.

During 1990, Hungary received foreign investments amounting to $1 billion, half of what the entire eastern bloc received, and reactivated trade with Europe. Silaye added that Hungary seeks to do the same with countries such as Chile after losing its markets in the USSR as a result of the recent radical changes that took place there.

Silaye ended by stating that 70 percent of Hungary's GDP depends on foreign trade.

PCCh Denies Involvement in Disturbances

PY1411125691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] denied being involved in the disturbances on 12 November which followed the demonstrations in support of the political prisoners.

PCCh political commission member Lautaro Carmona said that the PCCh does not support the actions that took place.

The PCCh leader said that, as a party, the PCCh participated in the mobilization. Nevertheless, we do not support nor did we participate in the actions that took place afterwards, he said.

We did not participate in the actions that took place, actions that do not help the national political impact sought by the mobilization, Carmona noted.

He said that the mobilizations in support of the political prisoners sought to make the population and the executive branch more sensitive so that the latter will accelerate the bills that will allow the closure of the political prisoners cases and grant them a presidential pardon.

Carmona also criticized Santiago Intendant Luis Pareto over the police intervention against an unauthorized mobilization. He said that the intendant's office and the government should have assessed the mobilization politically.

PCCh To Select Municipal Council Candidates

PY1111142091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] convened a metropolitan regional constituent conference [conferencia constituyente] with the goal of selecting the names of the council candidates that the PCCh will present for the municipal elections scheduled for 30 June 1992. The constituent conference will be held on 15-17 November and will conclude with a ceremony on 24 November at the Cariola Theater.

In keeping with the context of the municipal elections, the PCCh stressed that the elections are antidemocratic because of the electoral system that will be applied.

The PCCh states that we, the Santiago inhabitants, are confronting measures taken by the government in agreement with the right and its demands.

Concerning the constitutional reform on regional, provincial, and municipal government and administration that the executive branch presented to Congress, the PCCh stressed that it was broadly rejected.

The PCCh said that the reform faithfully reflects the government's agreement with the right, an agreement reached behind the people's backs and to their detriment.

MPMR Admits Members Died in Nicaragua Conflicts

PY1511131291 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 9 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Movement (MPMR) on 8 November acknowledged that its militants, as members of the Chilean MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and Socialist Party, died in guerrilla actions in Nicaragua after having received "militia training in Cuba." The MPMR asked for permission to repatriate the remains of those who died.

The MPMR leaders said that they did not join professional armies, only guerrilla movements during the time they saw action outside of Chile.

Through Cesar Quiroz, one of its leaders, the MPMR acknowledged the participation of young Chileans, militants of leftist parties, in the fight in Nicaragua against Anastacio Somoza's dictatorship. He explained that some of them collaborated with the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and others were professionals with international organizations dedicated to humanitarian aid.

He referred to the "internationalist fighters," saying that he was one of them. Asked whether they had received military training in Cuba, he said that the training was provided "for the revolutionary fight of the Nicaraguan people."

"In Cuba," he said, "everyone receives militia training. We lived there and we participated in the training, which is normal for every citizen."

The remains of the Chileans are currently in Cuba, where they were sent after Violeta Chamorro assumed the Presidency. Quiroz said that this is why the committee sent a letter to Fidel Castro asking him to authorize the repatriation of the remains of Days Huerta Lillo; Edgardo Lagos Aguirre; Miguel Rojas; Avelino Cacabelos Mancilla; Luis Mendoza Vivallo; and Jose Ibanez Godoy.

Colombia

Guerrilla Spokesman Discusses Caracas Talks

PA1411134891 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Interview with Alfonso Cano, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's delegate to the talks with the government, in Caracas, Venezuela, by unidentified reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [First reporter] Good morning, Mr. Cano. Is it true you are going to Cuba to talk with Fidel Castro?

[Cano] Good morning, greetings to you and your listeners. We will decide today the date of our return to Colombia. The situation there requires some caution, and preparations take a few days. For that reason, we accepted an invitation to go to Costa Rica for a few days to participate in a couple of conferences at the university [not further identified] and to meet with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Afterward, and if time allows, we will travel to Cuba. I mean two more days, so we will return to Colombia next week.

[Reporter] Who are you going to talk to in Cuba and what about, Mr. Cano?

[Cano] We have the option of holding a number of meetings on Latin American topics. We have not scheduled any specific meetings with anyone.

[Reporter] Can one suppose that this activity is part of the efforts by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board commission to reach an agreement with the government?

[Cano] Yes, of course. All the contacts we have been making at the international level are related to the negotiations process we are conducting with the Colombian Government.

[Second reporter] The guerrilla summit you will hold soon seems to be decisive for the peace talks you are conducting with the government. It is said that the summit will reveal a clear division at the top leadership level, pitting a hard line stance against a negotiating stance, the one you represent. Can you analyze this meeting?

[Cano] Let me first assure you that no summit meeting has been scheduled. In the declaration issued during the commanders' meeting last year, we noted the need to continue holding these kinds of events but the date remains open. Let me assure you that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board is maintaining a strong and united stance and that rumors circulating in Colombia are not correct. It is simply that a process as complex as this one, in the midst of an equally complex situation, generates differing viewpoints and approaches, but Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board unity comes above everthing. I can assure you of that.

[First reporter] You just acknowledged that your trip to Cuba falls within the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's efforts to reach a peace agreement with the government. What kind of efforts can be made in Cuba to reach that agreement?

[Cano] There are a number of groups and personalities in Central America and the Caribbean in general that deal with the processes of peace and negotiation. They are highly familiar with this topic and in the past have handled topics such as human rights and the dirty war in Latin America. The meetings will be held to brief each other and to discuss a little in this area about the status of the dialogue in the country and the possibilities we are reviewing. That is basically the idea.

[Second reporter] Mr. Cano, fear is rife in the people because of reports that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board will launch an offensive to mark the military takeover of the Casa Verde guerrilla bastion one year ago. Is this going to happen?

[Cano] I talked on 12 November to the guerrilla command. They agreed with our answers to questions posed on the matter. The fact is that the Armed Forces are conducting a large scale offensive and we think the rumors are more closely related to something the Armed Forces are preparing than to anything we may be planning. The country must know that the Armed Forces are conducting a general deployment in rural areas. That is where the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board is, so clashes are taking place. The clashes will certainly continue until we reach an agreement. The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board is not planning anything of the sort that you asked.

[Reporter] Alfonso Cano said the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board spokesmen's trips to Costa Rica and Cuba stem from contacts with organizations that have handled peace processes in that area.

Rebels Detonate Bombs, Attack Police in Pasca

PA151104289l Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] On 15 November, two medium-strength bombs exploded in Santa Fe de Bogota outside two banks. The bombs destroyed electronic cashiers, shattered windows, and caused more damage. No victims were reported. According to the authorities, each bomb contained approximately 5 kg of dynamite and were placed by Army of National Liberation, ELN, guerrillas.

Another guerrilla attack occurred in Pasca, Cundinamarca Department, and our news crew visited the area.

[Begin recording of unidentified resident] I heard some women. I know they were women because one had long hair. They shouted: Come out, you sons of bitches. I imagine they were yelling at the police. Another one warned the police that if they did not come out they would spray gasoline to force them out. [end recording]

The guerrilla takeover of Pasca was unique. The 70 guerrillas who entered the town did not paint graffiti on the walls; did not hold up the Agrarian Bank; and the people did not hear slogans identifying the group. The attack was centered on the police precinct. Some witnesses said that the objective was to kidnap the four policemen and the officer there. These five men were only armed with carbines to defend the town.

The ironic thing is that despite the violence unleashed on the police precinct, the guerrilla operation in this town did not violate the Summary of Agreements signed recently in Caracas. Civilians were not physically attacked and no one was killed or injured, although some Pasca residents feel they were victims of an attack.

[Begin recording of unidentified resident] I did not cry then, but I am crying now. The guerrillas say they are against the state, but do not realize the people are the ones suffering. The people see the consequences; the people are suffering. [end recording]

The fragility of the peace that Colombia achieved at the Caracas talks between the government and guerrillas became evident today. The bomb attacks in this city, as well as the attack on the Pasca police precinct, reveal that the ground covered at the peace talks is not enough. The

agreements signed on 9 November, in Caracas, however, are still holding, as our following analysis reveals.

The destruction of the Pasca police precinct shows that the guerrillas want to make their presence known near Santa Fe de Bogota, which will be useful to them to expand their zone of influence when the discussion on detente begins in Caracas. The guerrillas did not pledge in Caracas to suspend their attacks on the Army or the police. That is why one can anticipate more attacks in the future. Although the bomb explosions on Santa Fe de Bogota's banks constitute attacks on civilians, they show that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] does not control all the groups that operate under the guerrilla's name.

One cannot rule out the possibility that paramilitary groups may attack civilians and blame the guerrillas and hamper the talks between the government and the CNGSB. Nor can we rule out the possibility that isolated and anarchic guerrilla groups may attack civilians, utility towers, and pipelines, something that will create confusion as no mechanism of verification exists throughout this period of fragile peace.

Suriname

Financial Aid Restoration Sought With Dutch

FL1511123491 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Talks are set to begin today in Bonaire between the Suriname and Netherlands Governments . Suriname is expected to ask the Dutch to restore financial aid cut off after last year's coup. Holland was asking Suriname for assurances that the Army is willing to relinquish some of its political power before they restore aid. The delegates from Suriname arrived at Bonaire yesterday. The Dutch delegation arrived early this morning and Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek sent his two delegates in his place, Dr. Jan Pronk and Mr. (Ernst Hisch Berlin).

Also today the prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Maria Liberia-Peters and the chief minister of Aruba, Nelson Oduber will be arriving. There will be two working conferences, one this afternoon and one tomorrow, followed by a news conference tomorrow afternoon when final statements are expected.